

Vol. 10



PHOENIX

CIVIL WAR

PART ONE

OSAMU TEZUKA



phoenix

CIVIL WAR

PART ONE



BY OSAMU TEZUKA

Phoenix: Civil War: Part 1
Vol. 7
VIZ Signature Edition

STORY AND ART BY
OSAMU TEZUKA

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A message to our readership:

Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

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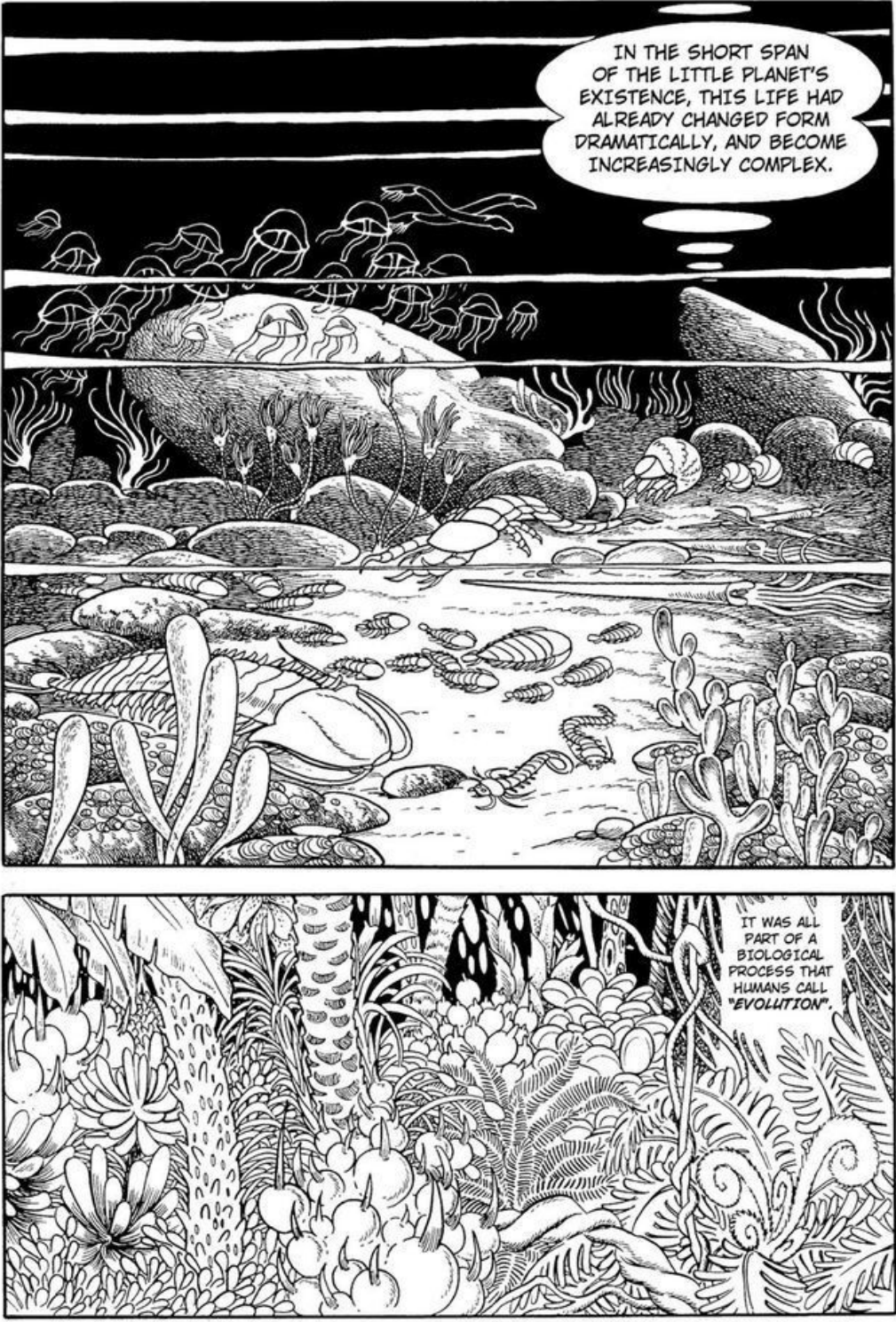
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IN A
DISTANT
CORNER
OF THE
UNIVERSE,
ON A TINY
CLUMP OF
STARDUST

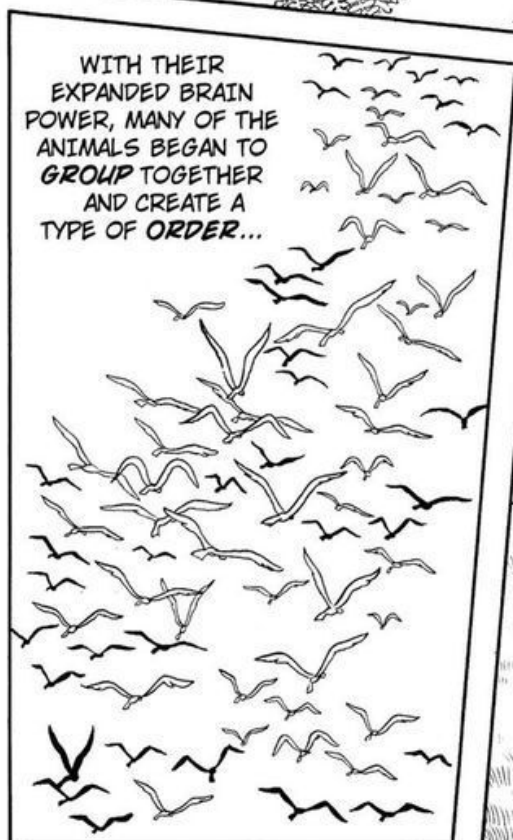
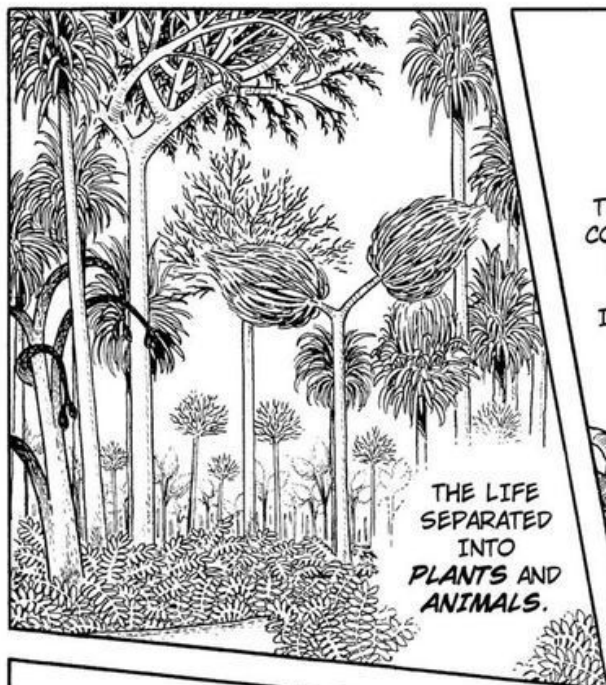
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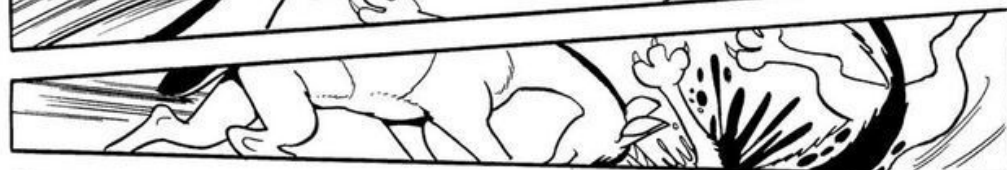
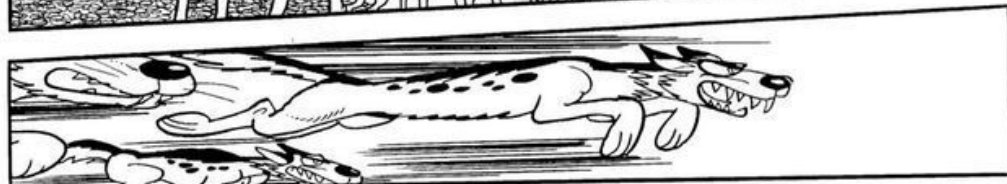
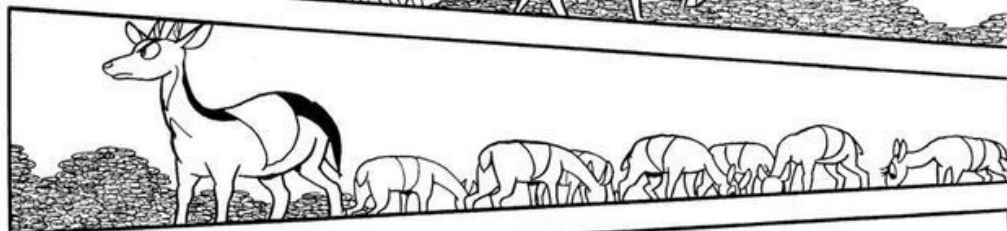
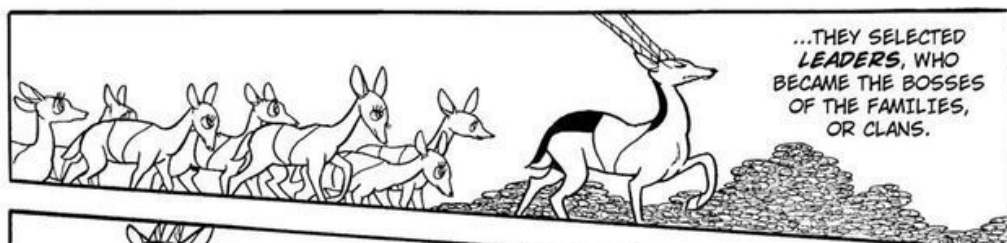
...THERE
WAS *LIFE*,
AND IT
CLUNG TO
EXISTENCE
LIKE MOSS
ON A
ROCK...

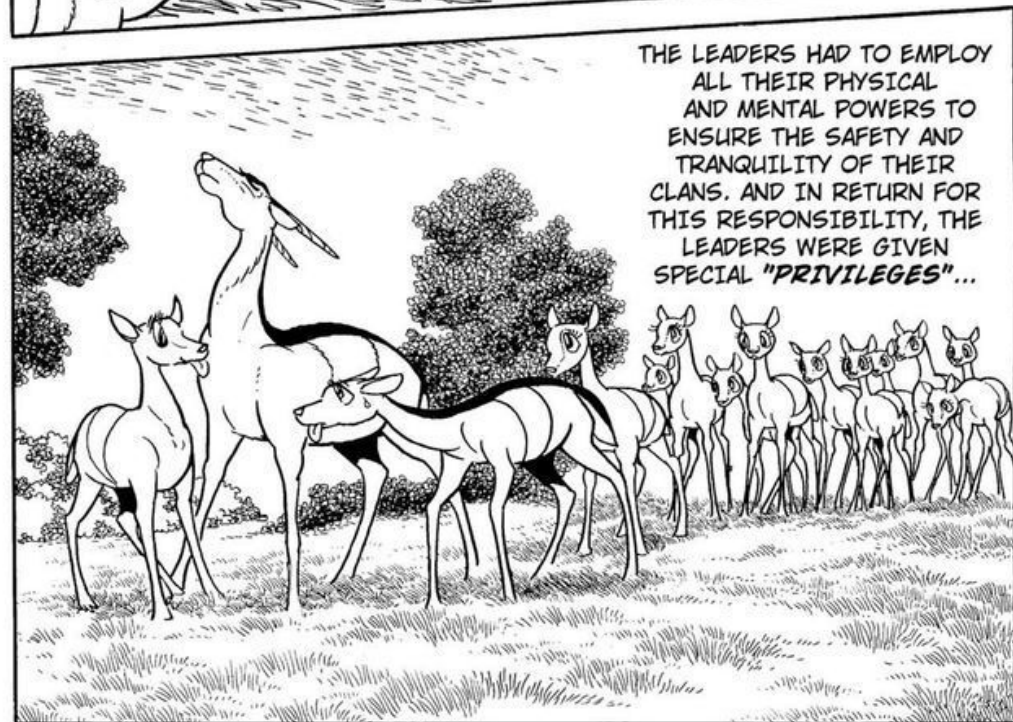
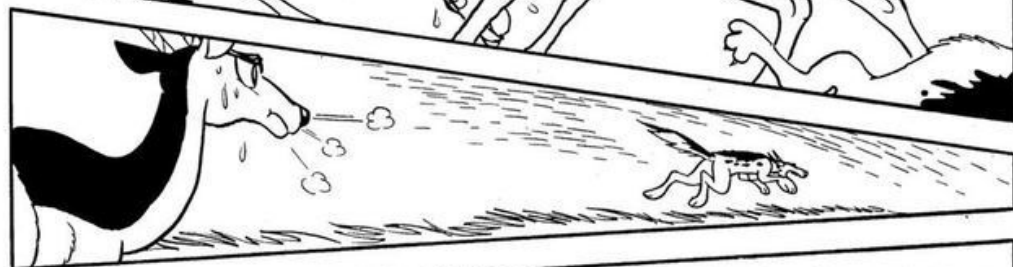


IN THE SHORT SPAN
OF THE LITTLE PLANET'S
EXISTENCE, THIS LIFE HAD
ALREADY CHANGED FORM
DRAMATICALLY, AND BECOME
INCREASINGLY COMPLEX.


IT WAS ALL
PART OF A
BIOLOGICAL
PROCESS THAT
HUMANS CALL
"EVOLUTION".







THE LEADERS HAD TO EMPLOY
ALL THEIR PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL POWERS TO
ENSURE THE SAFETY AND
TRANQUILITY OF THEIR
CLANS. AND IN RETURN FOR
THIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE
LEADERS WERE GIVEN
SPECIAL "PRIVILEGES"...



IT WAS THE
SAME, TOO, FOR
THE CREATURES
CALLED
HUMAN
BEINGS.

phoenix

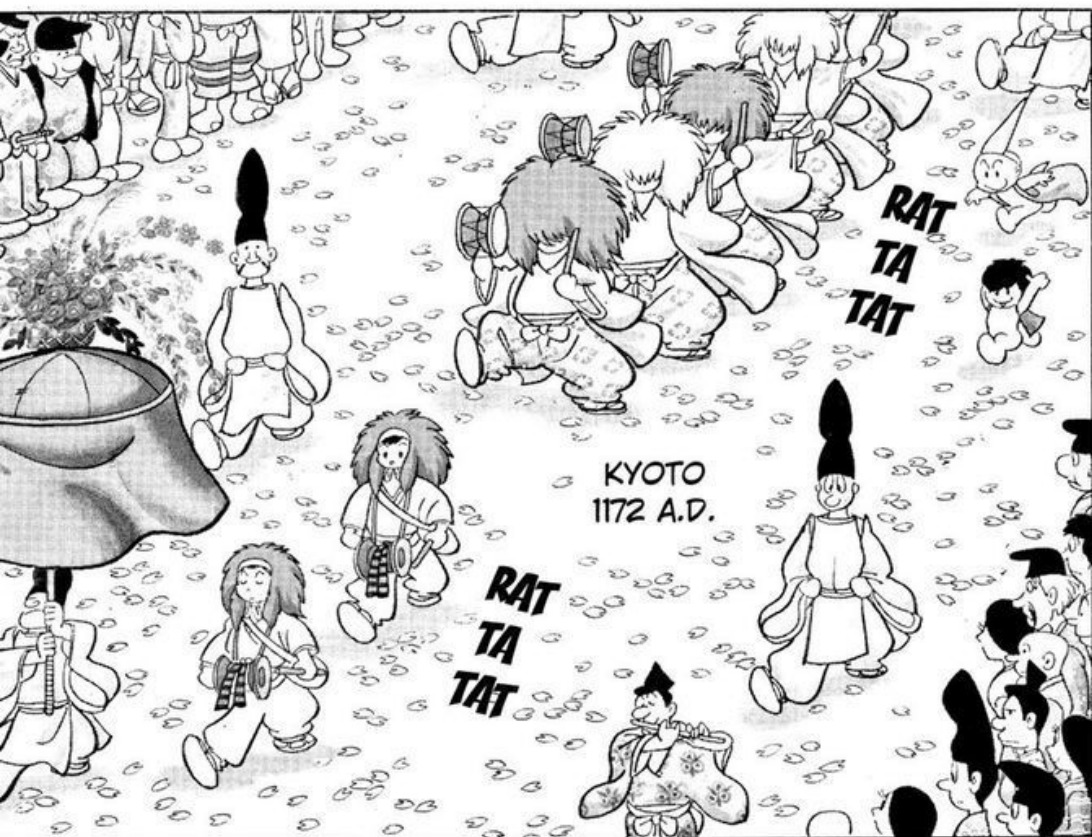
TM



**B
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M**

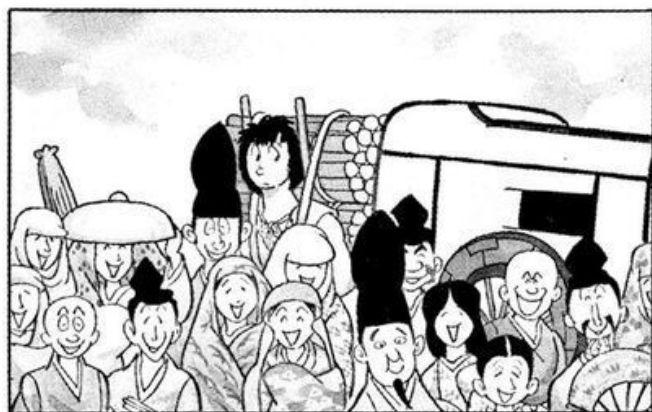
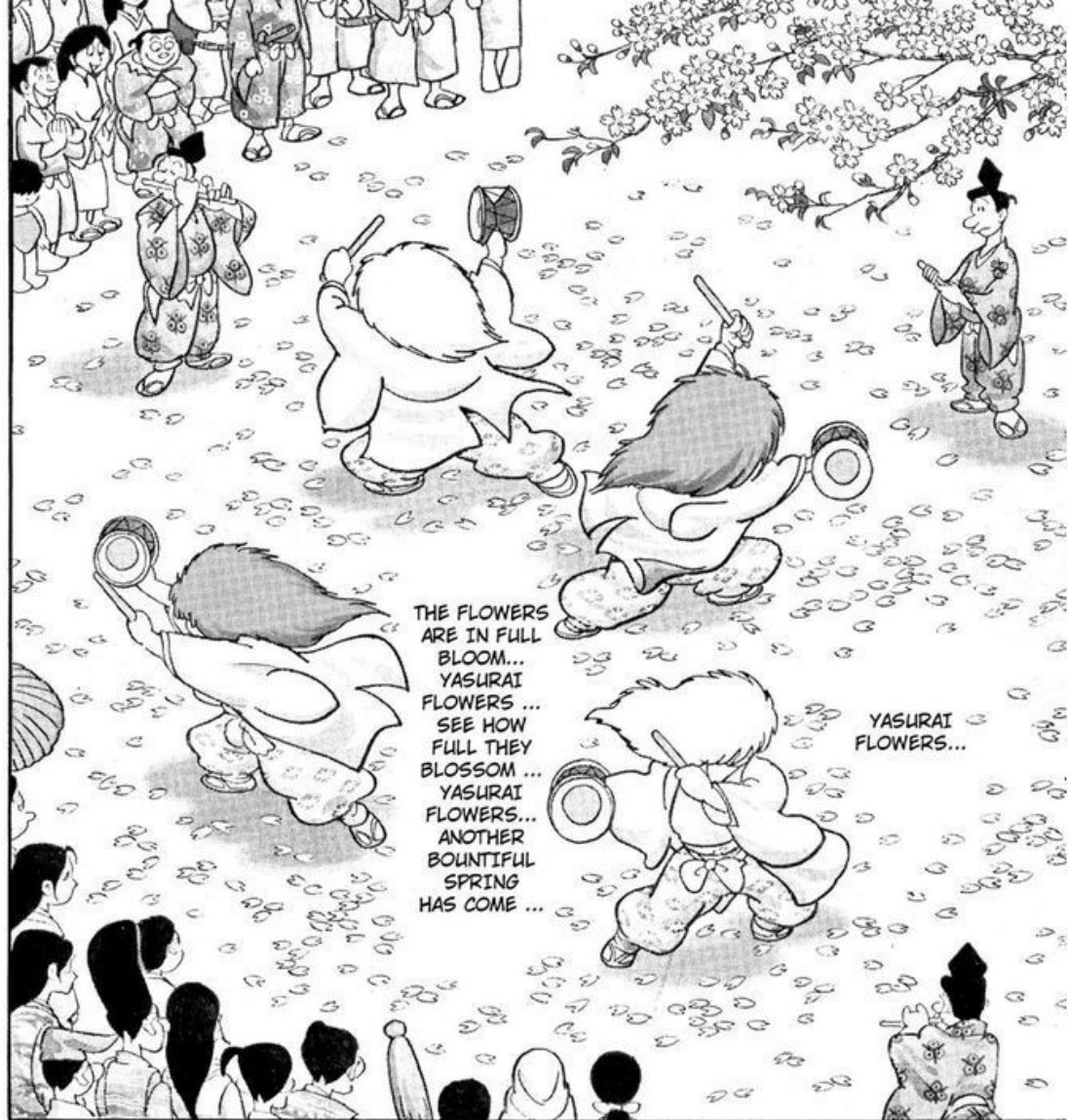
**RAT
TA
TAT**

**B
O
M**

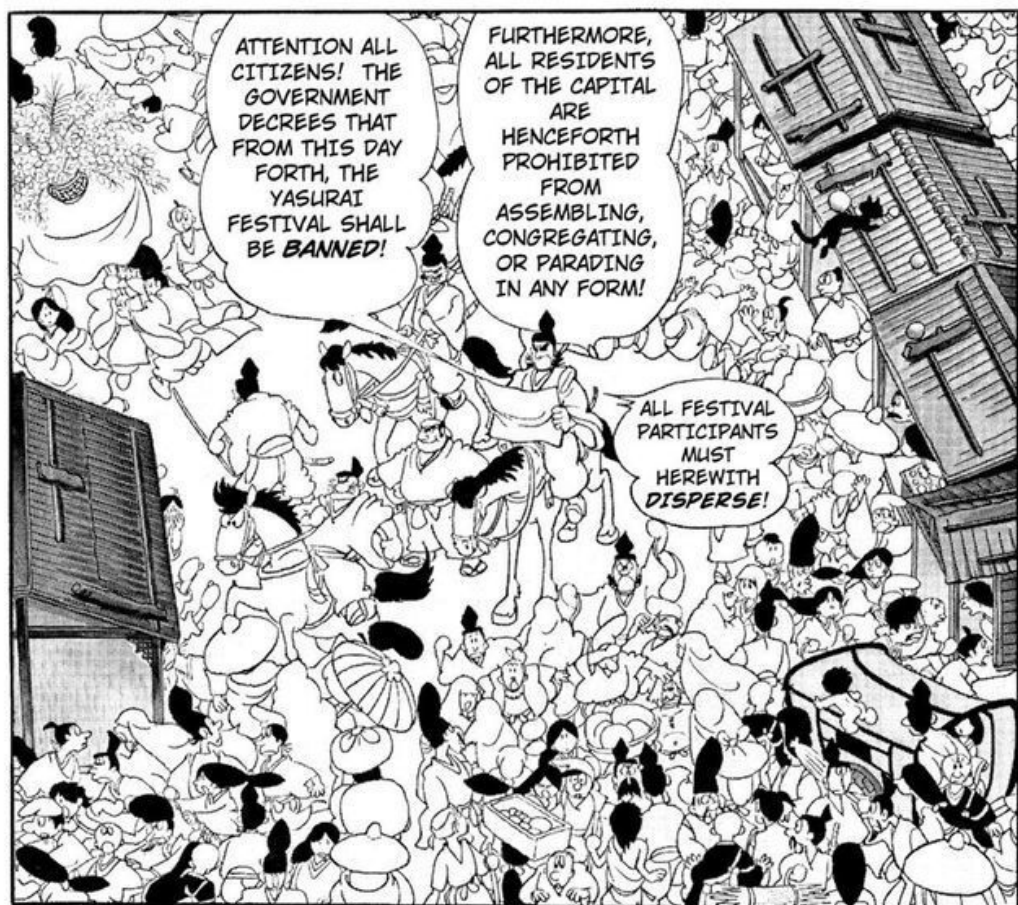


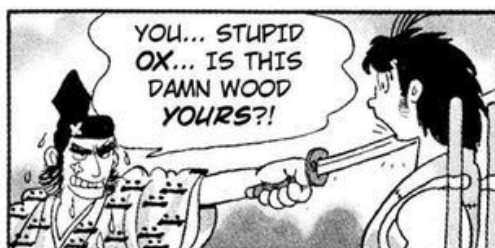
**B
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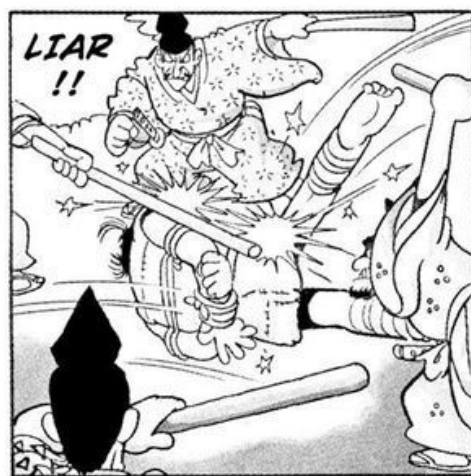
**B
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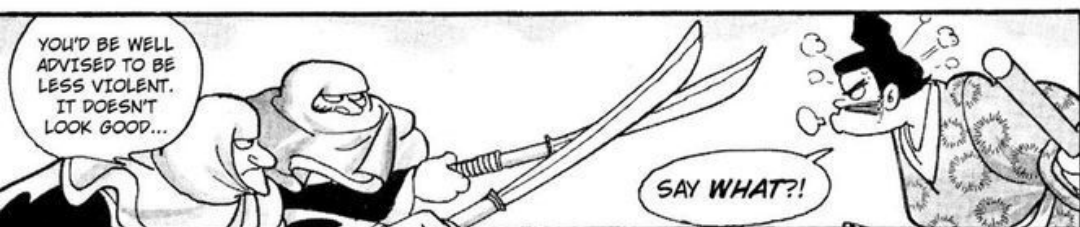


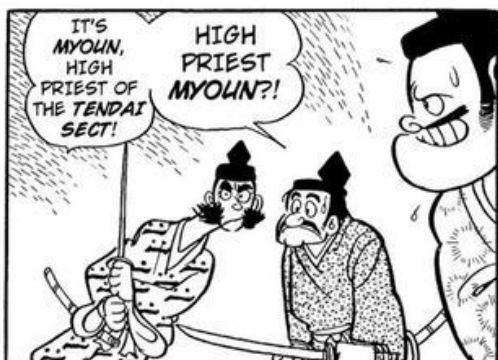
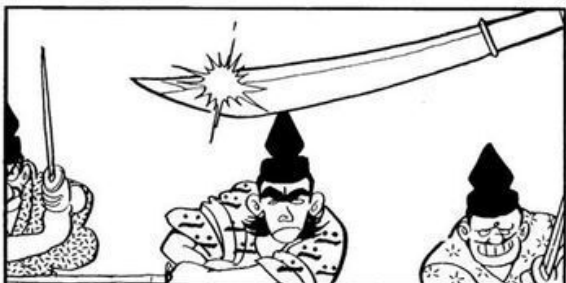


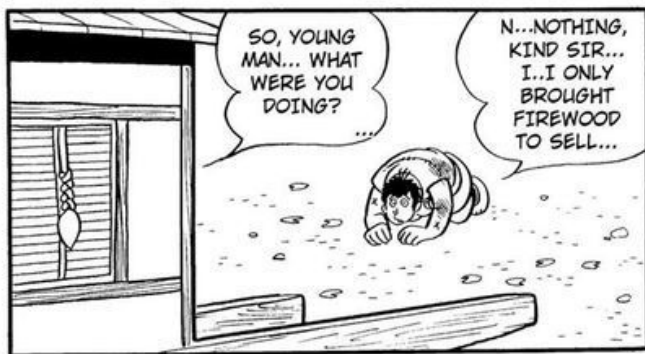






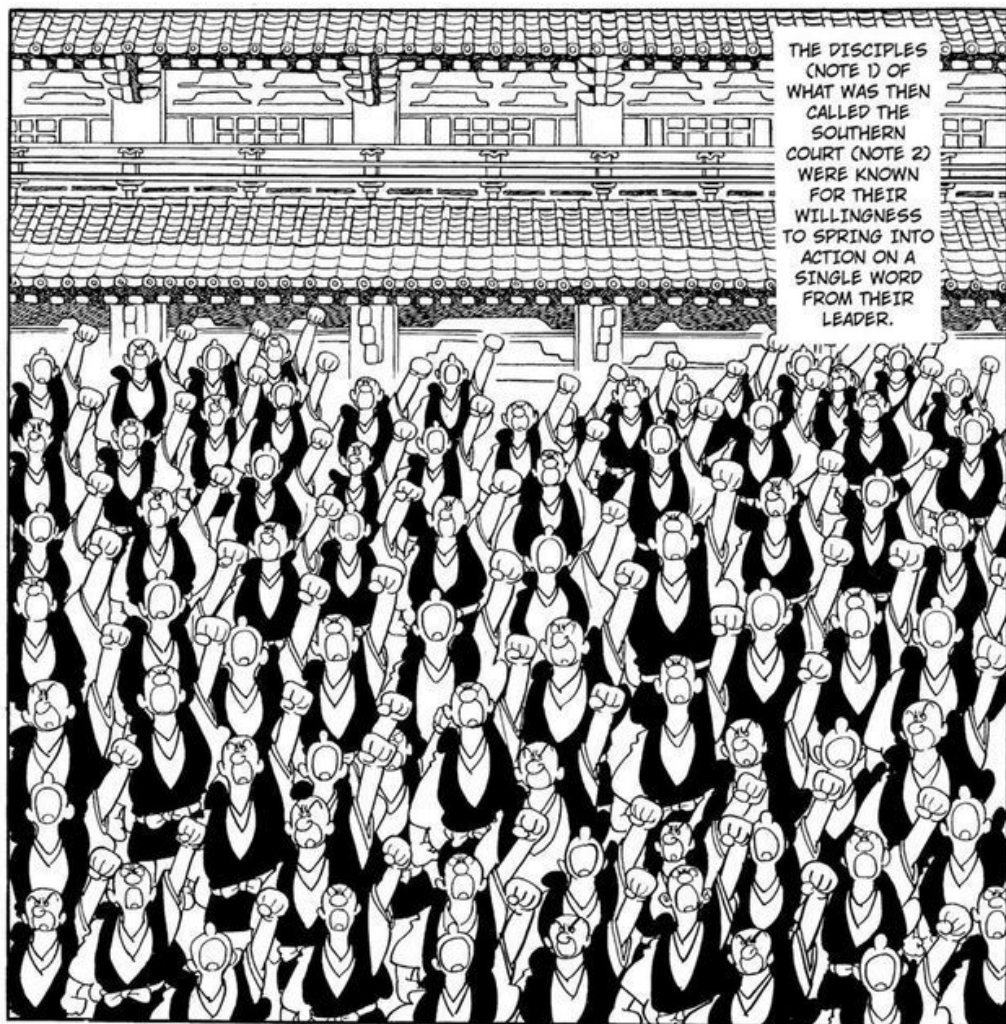




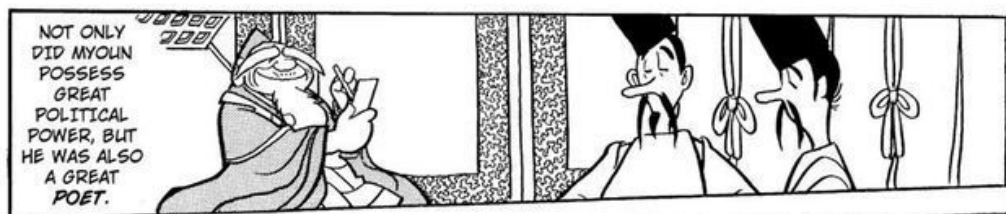




* NOTE: HOKUREI IS ANOTHER NAME FOR ENRYAKU-JI TEMPLE, LOCATED ON MT. HIBI-ZAN IN KYOTO.



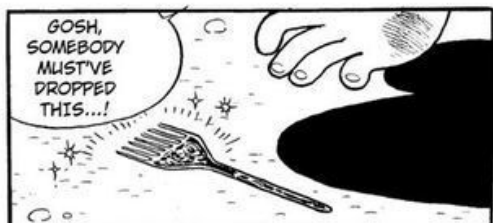
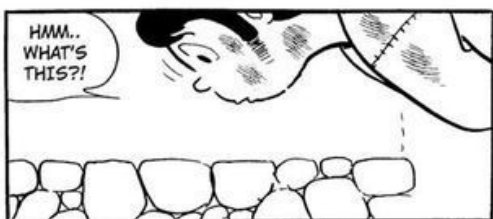
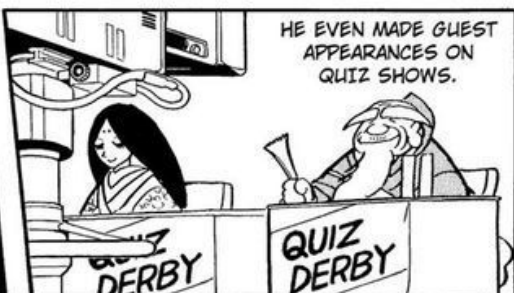
THE DISCIPLES (NOTE 1) OF WHAT WAS THEN CALLED THE SOUTHERN COURT (NOTE 2) WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SPRING INTO ACTION ON A SINGLE WORD FROM THEIR LEADER.



NOT ONLY DID MYOUN POSSESS GREAT POLITICAL POWER, BUT HE WAS ALSO A GREAT POET.



...AND HE WAS A GIFTED ARTIST. HE EVEN DREW CARTOONS...





I BET THIS THING'S WORTH A LOT!

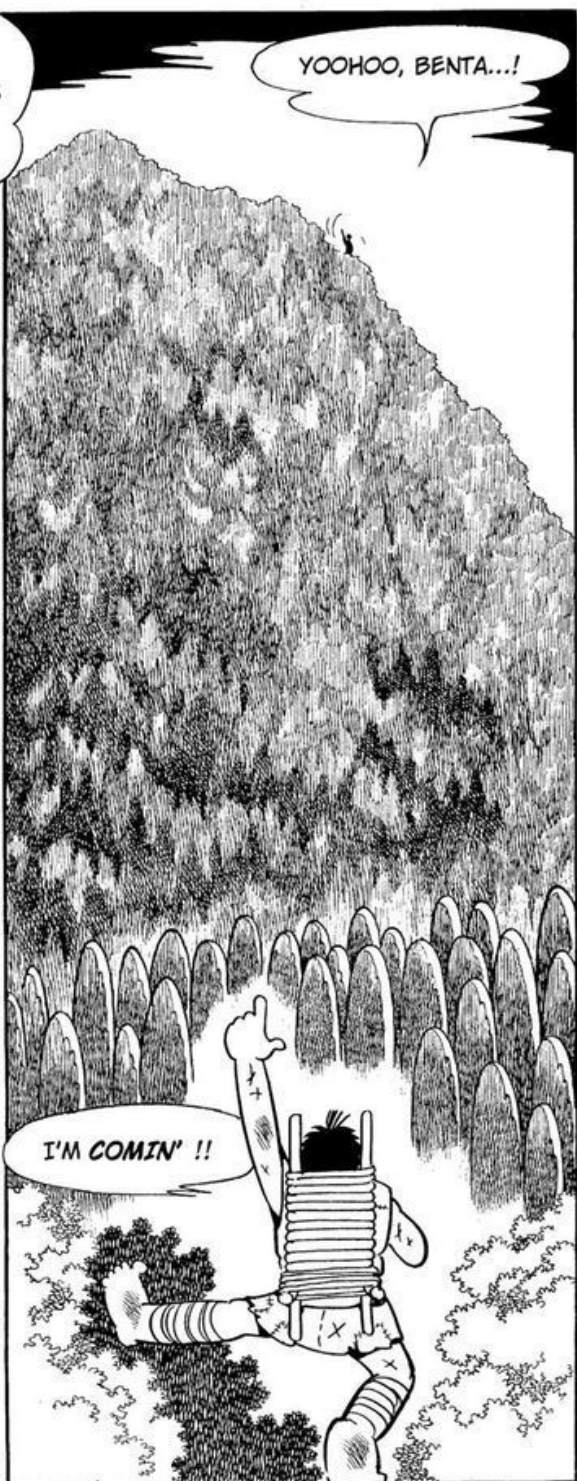
YOOHOO, BENTA...!



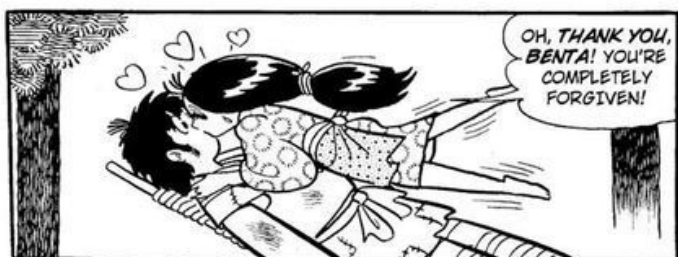
I KNOW THE LAW SAYS YOU'VE GOTTA DELIVER LOST ITEMS TO THE AUTHORITIES...



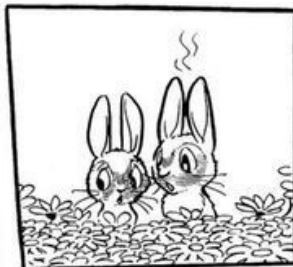
TIME TA SCRAM...

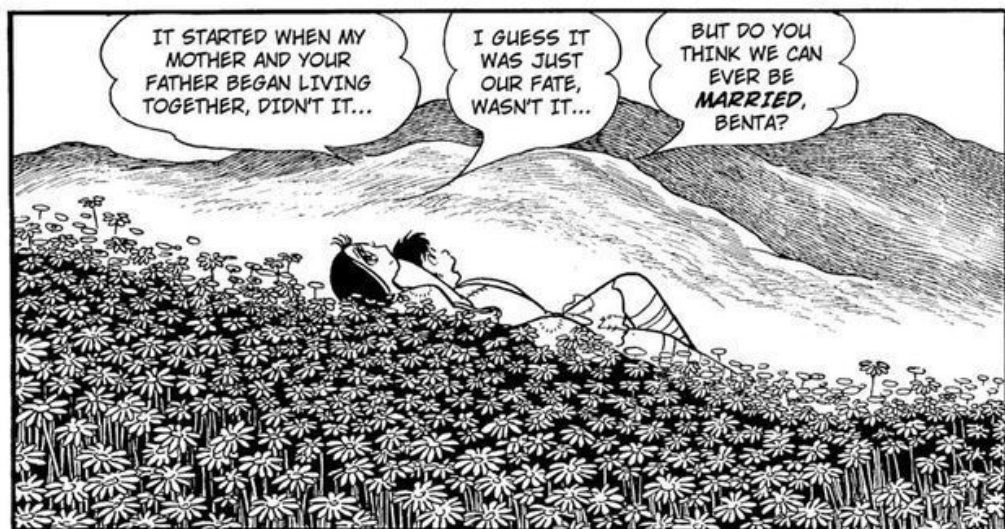








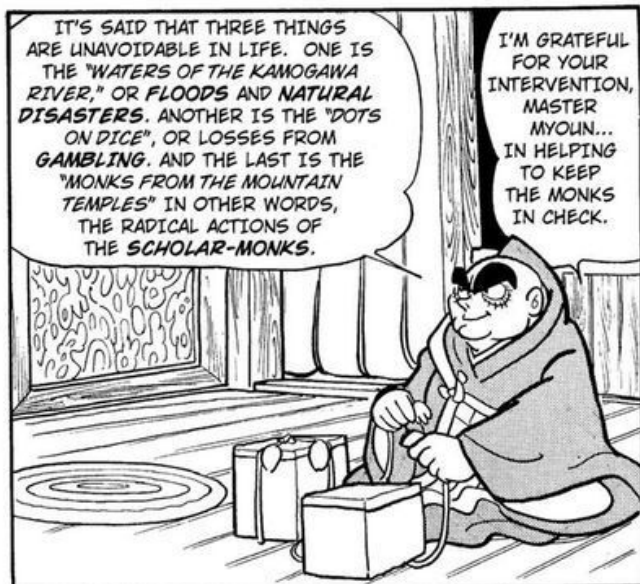
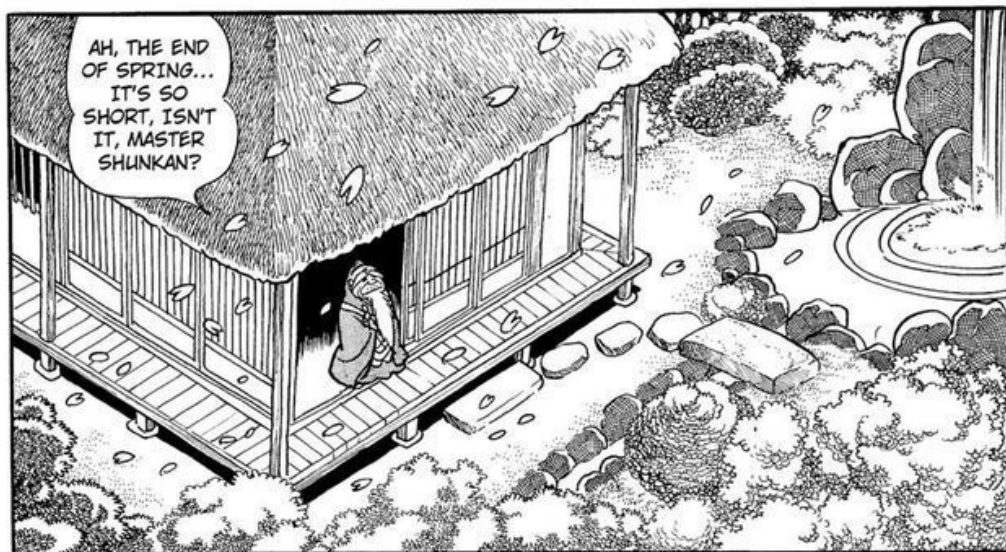


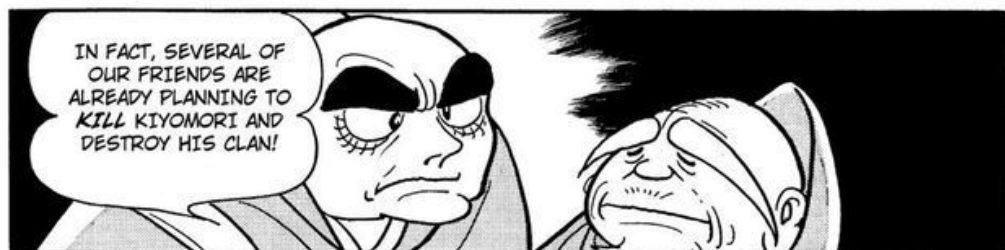




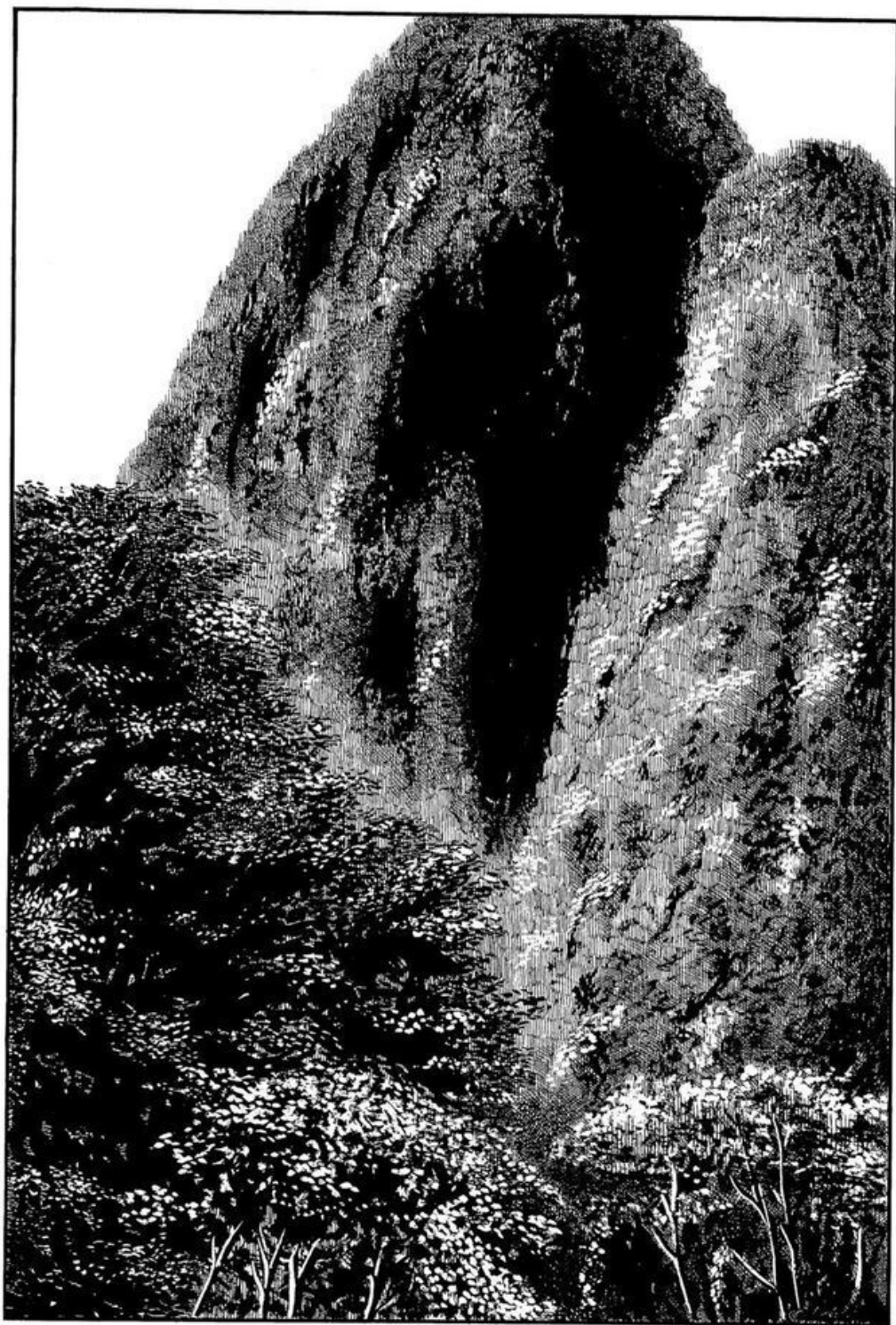


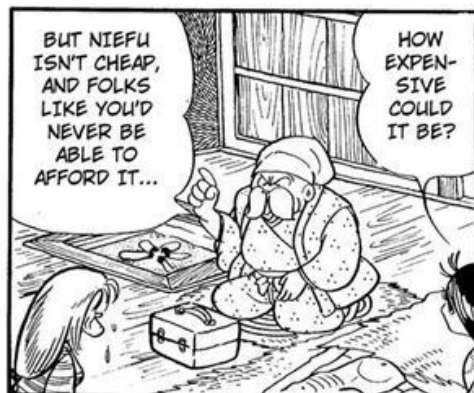






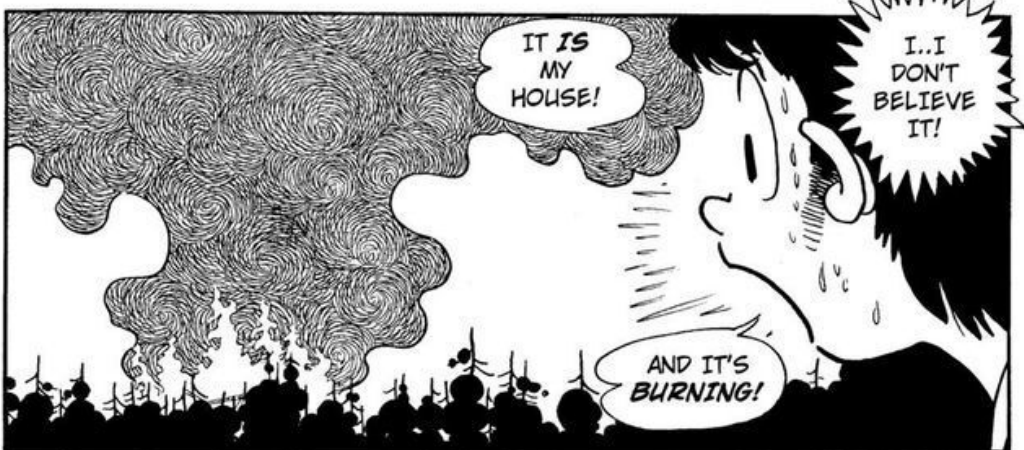


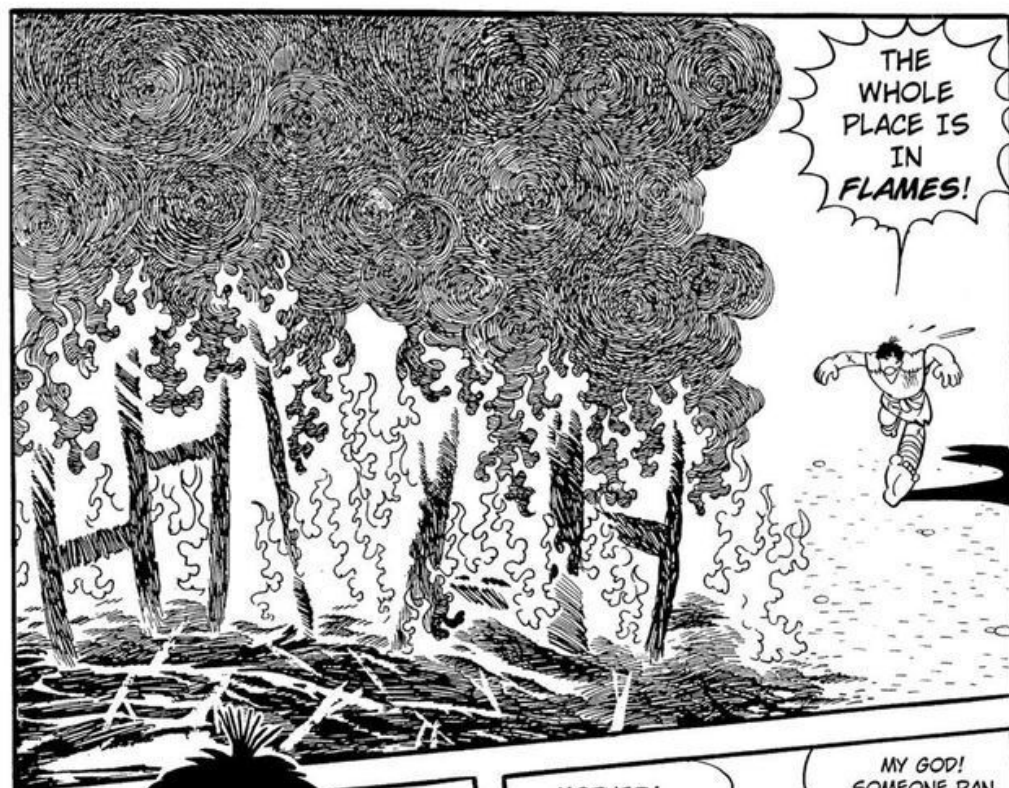




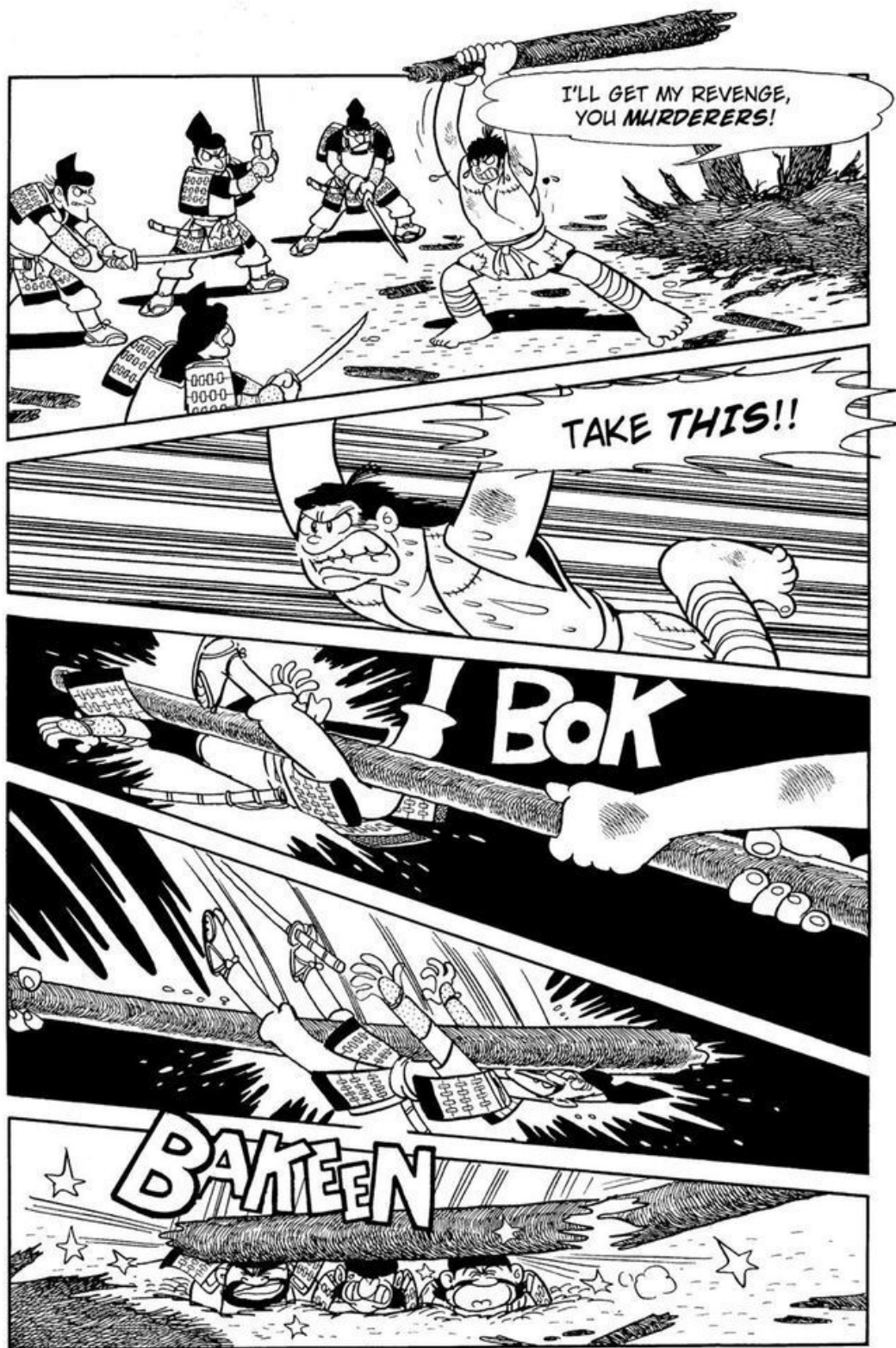




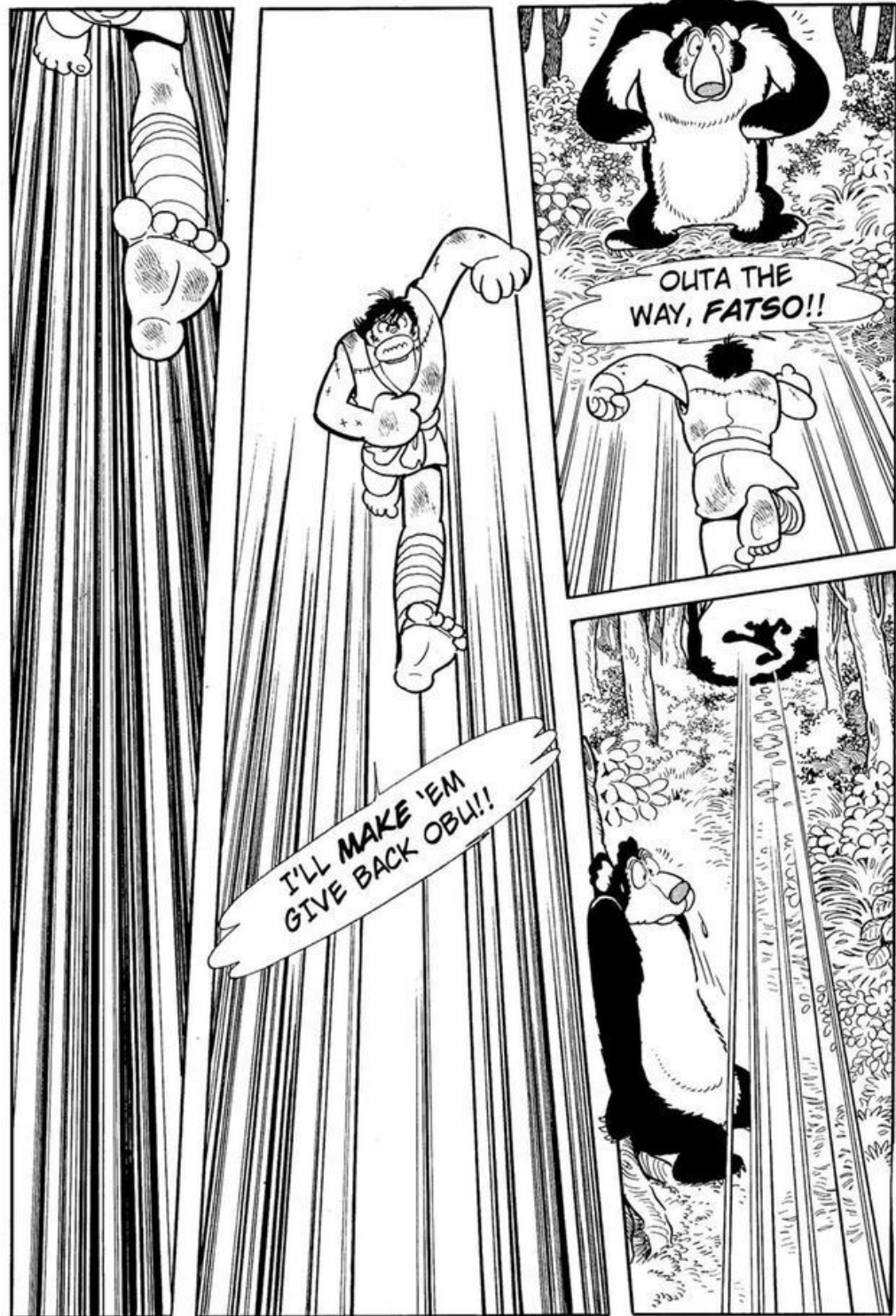


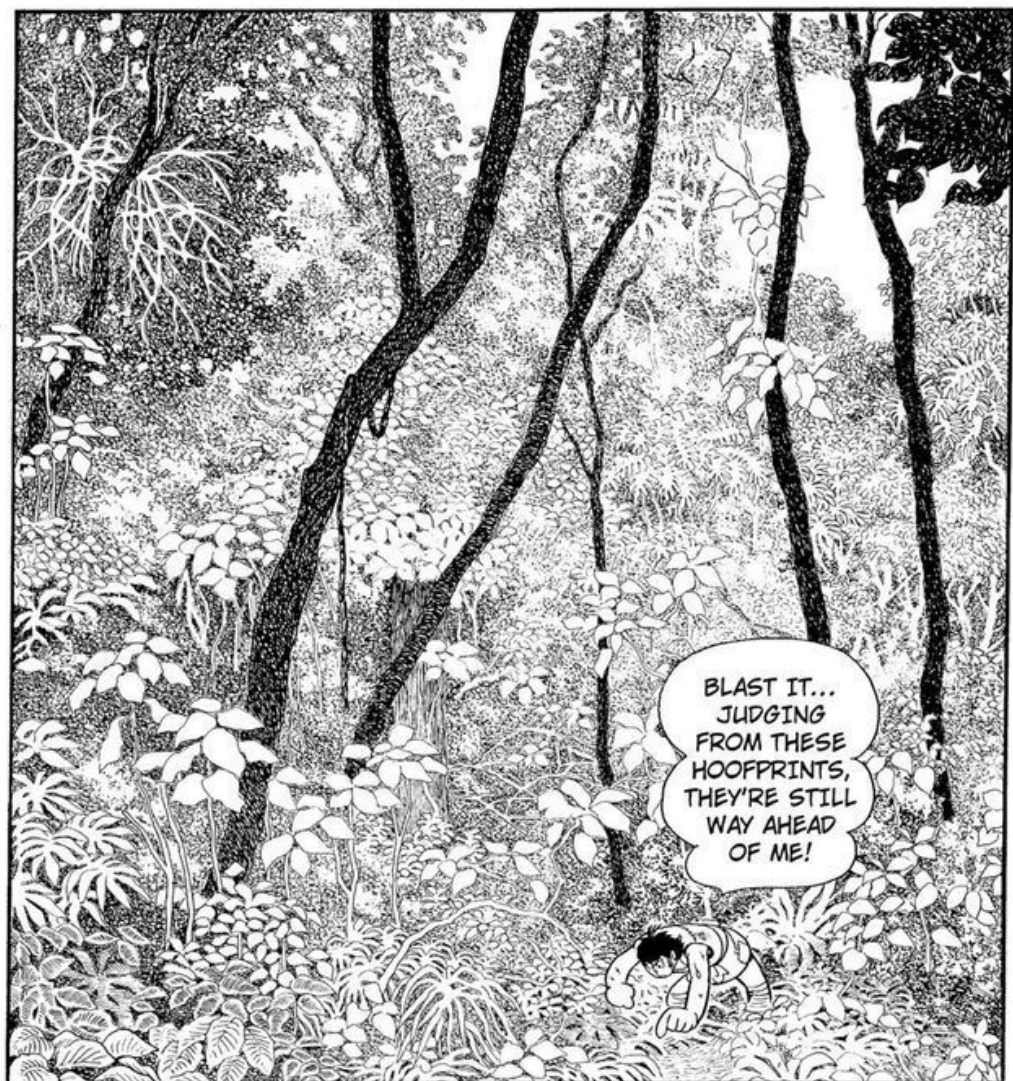


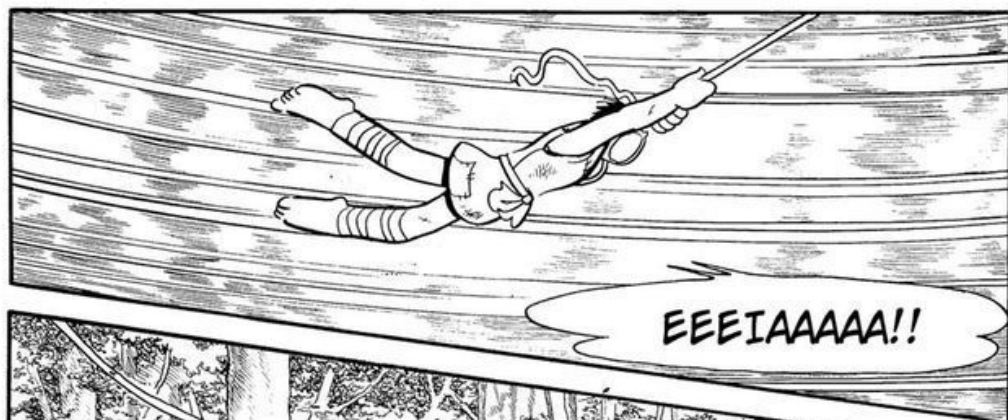




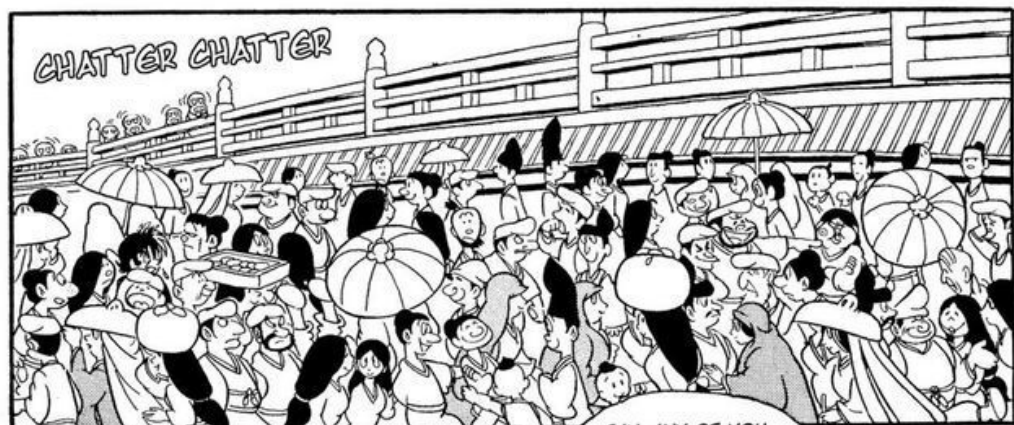




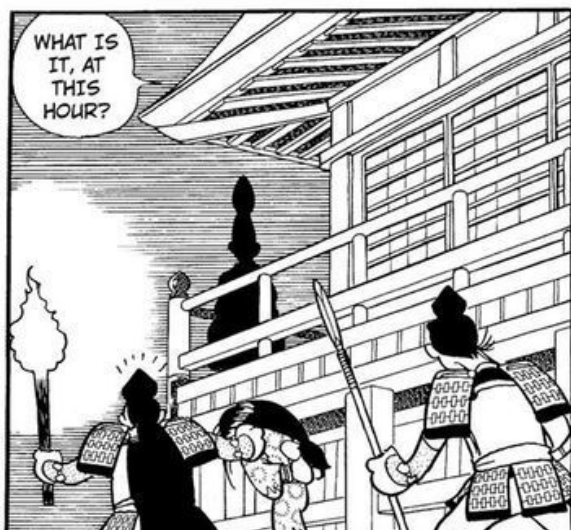


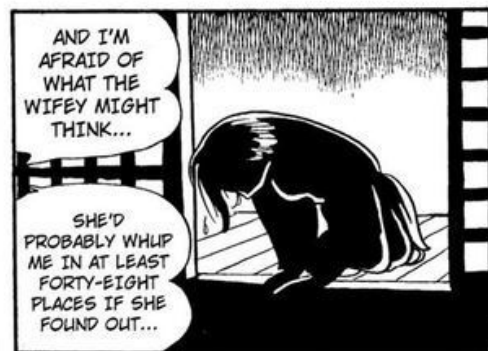
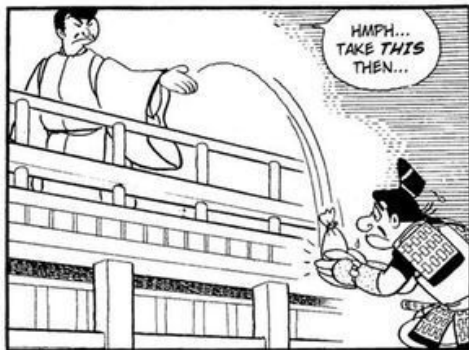




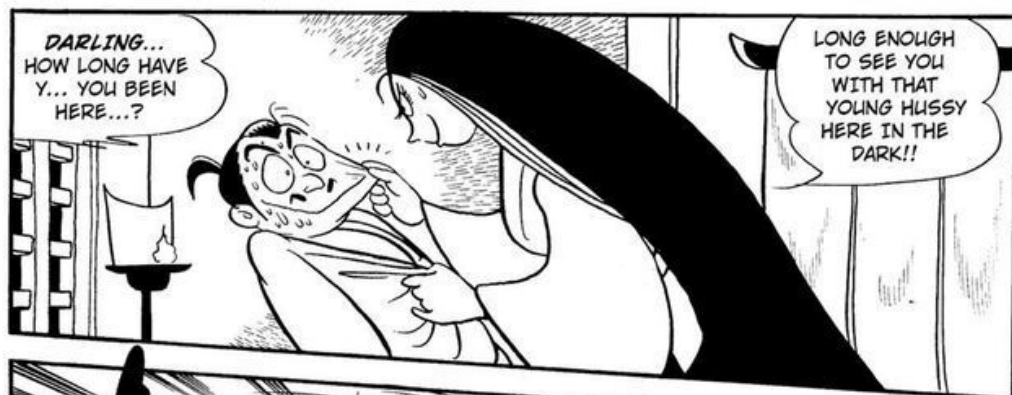








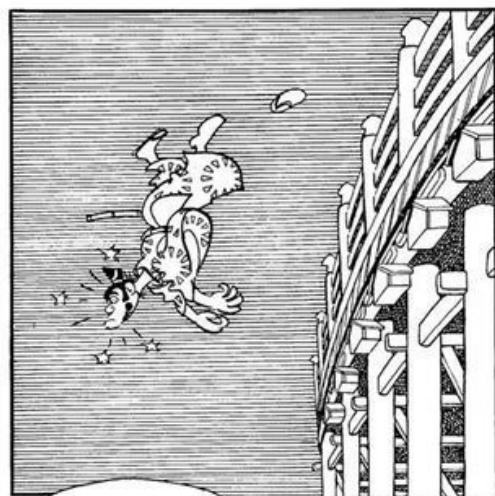
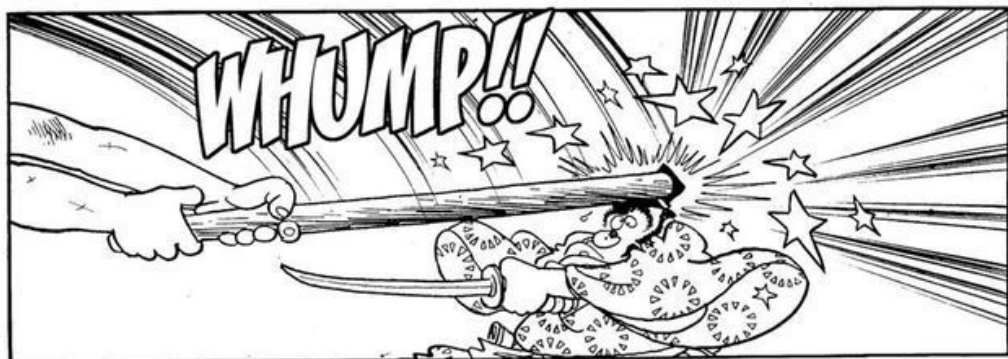


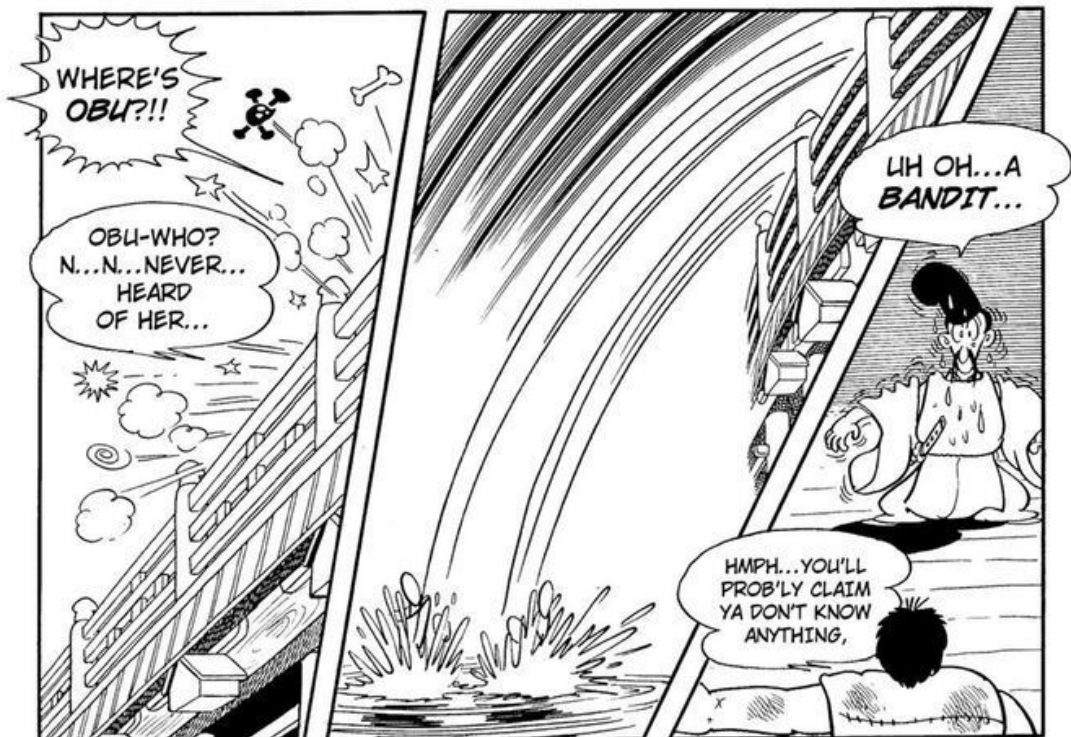


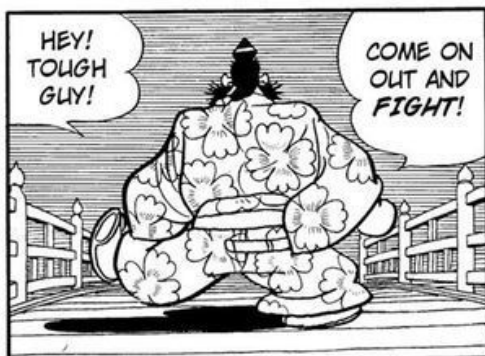


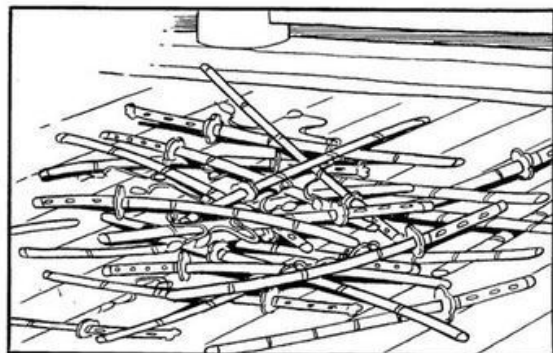


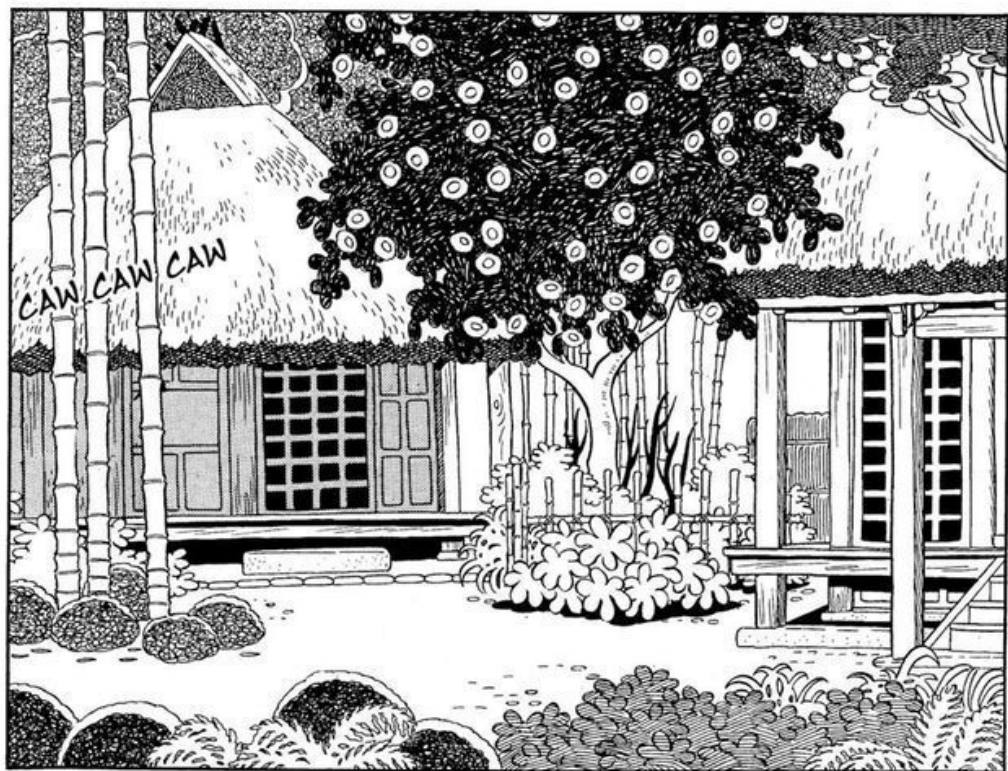
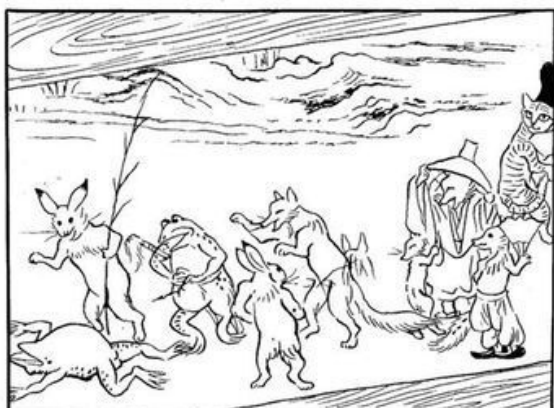
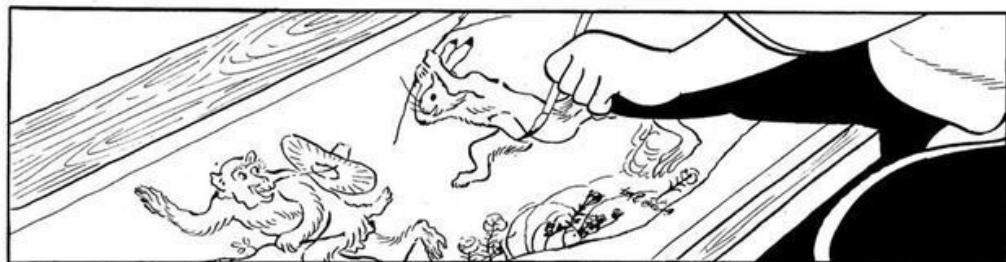


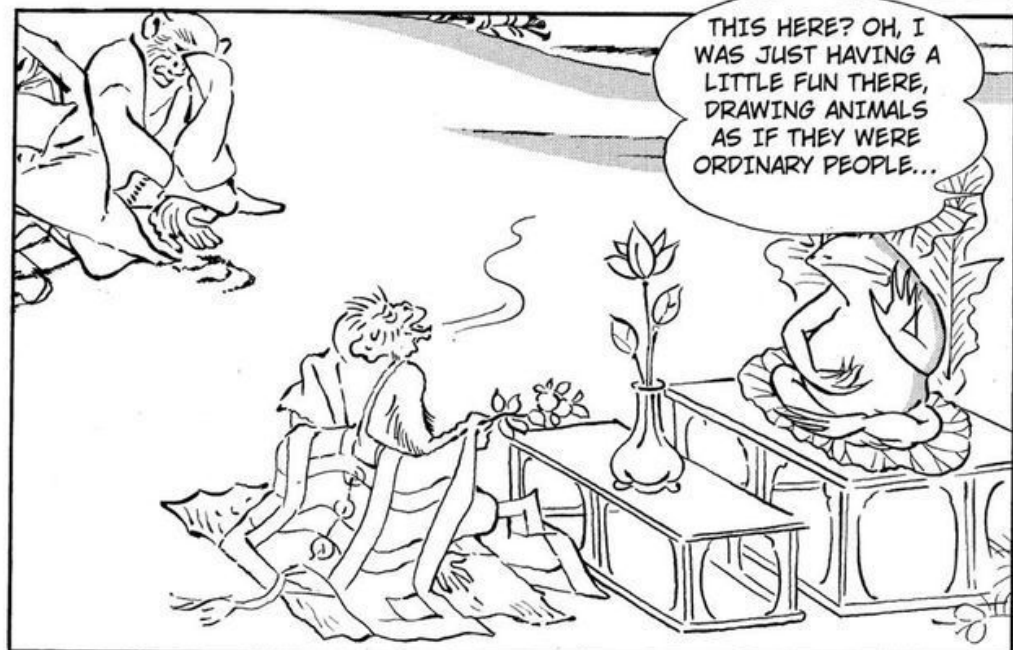


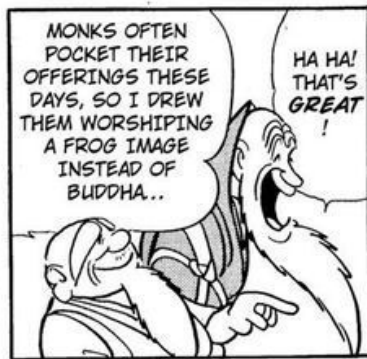
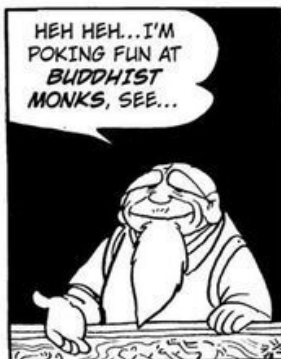
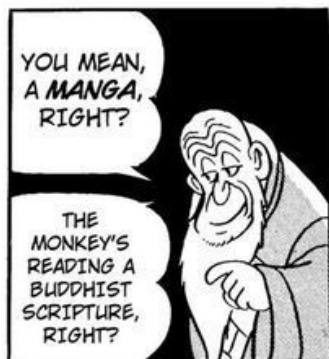


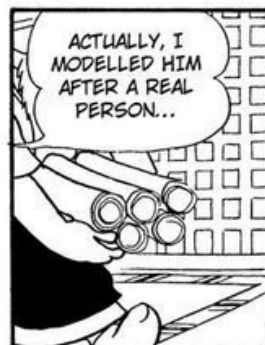
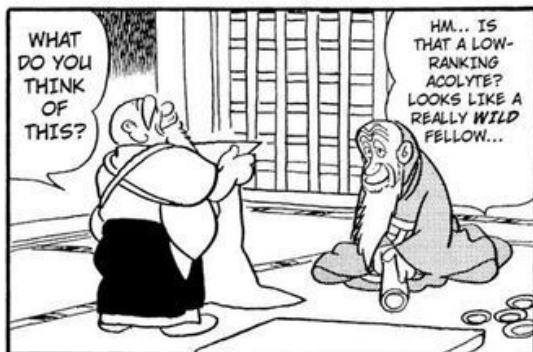




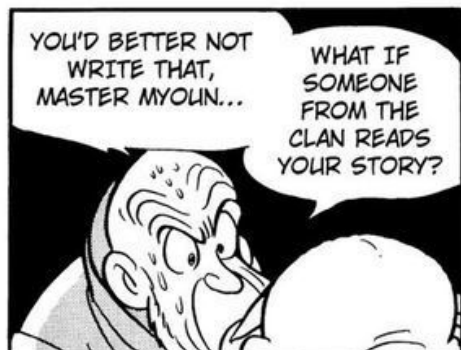


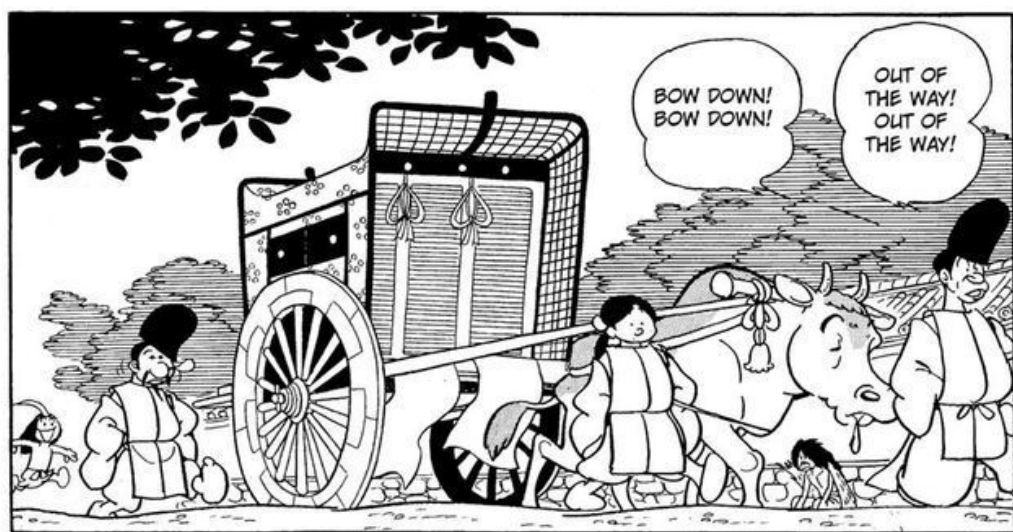
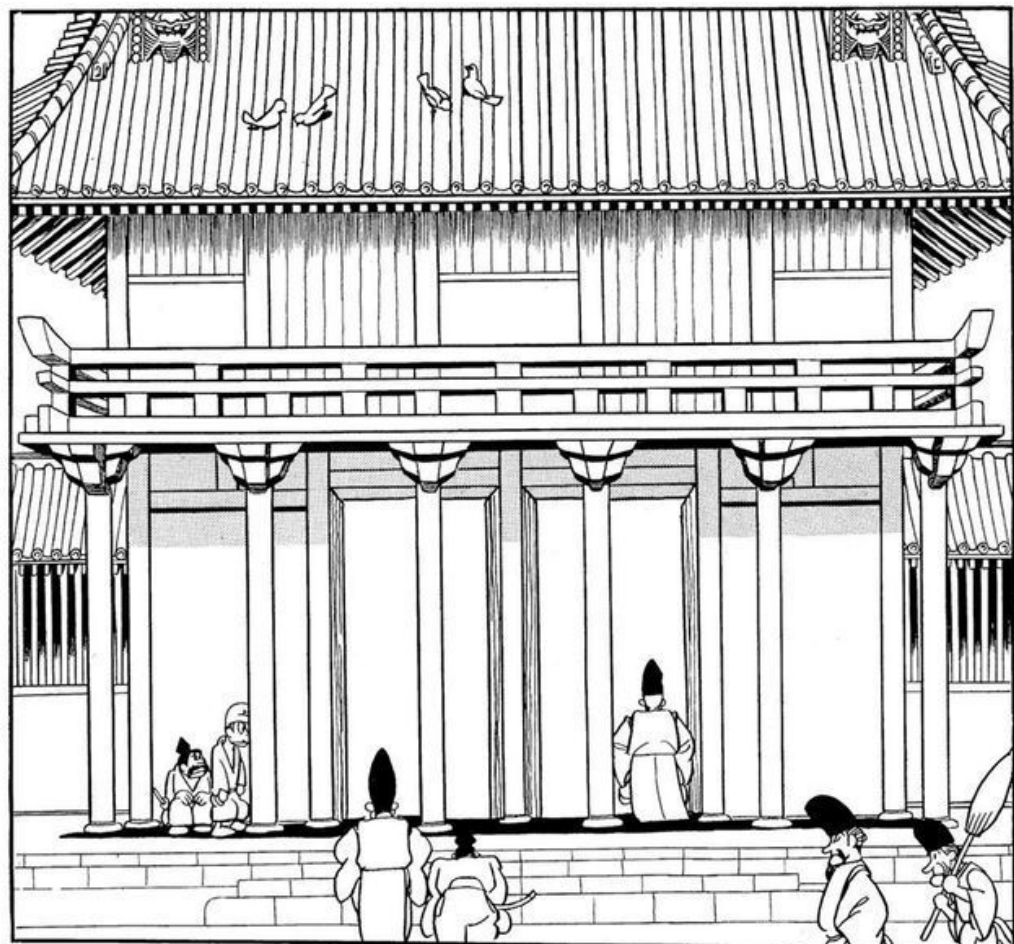


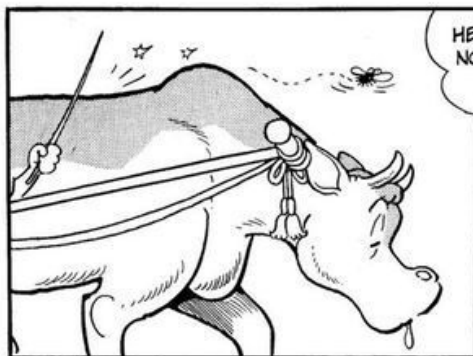




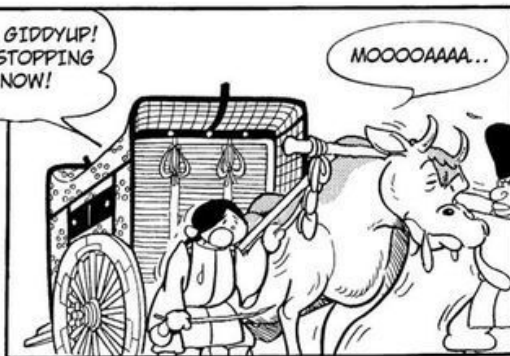
*EIZAN IS ANOTHER NAME FOR ENRYAKU-JI TEMPLE ON MT. HIE-ZAN. ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL LEGEND OF BENKEI, HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT THERE BY THE BISHOP SAITO SAKURA.







HEY, GIDDYUP!
NO STOPPING
NOW!

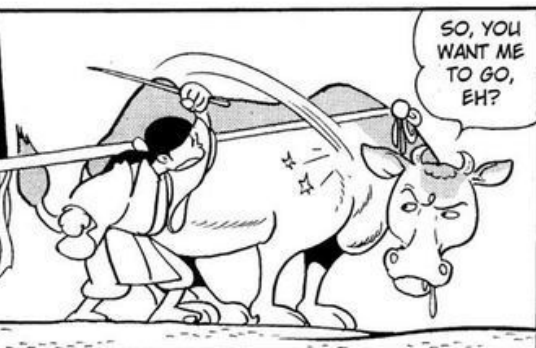


MOOOOAAAAA...



HURRY UP!
MAKE HIM
MOVE!

GET
ALONG
THERE!
GO!



SO, YOU
WANT ME
TO GO,
EH?



OH
NO...HE
WENT...!

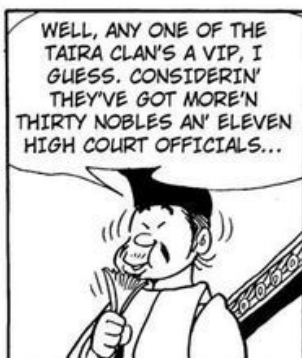


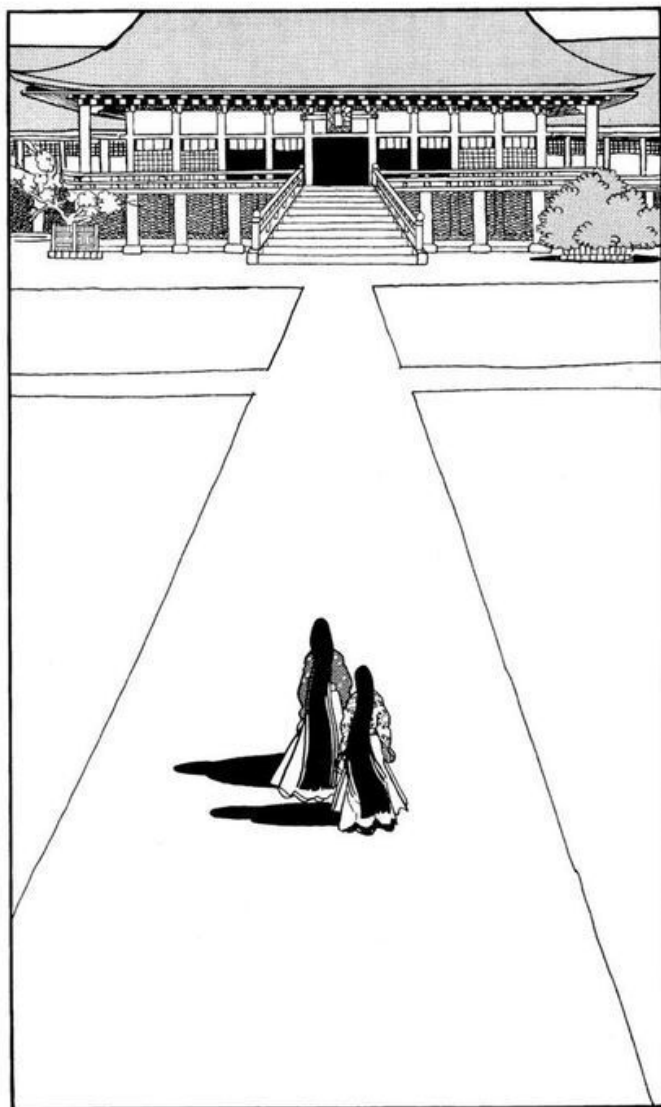
SANI-
TATION
PATROL
!!

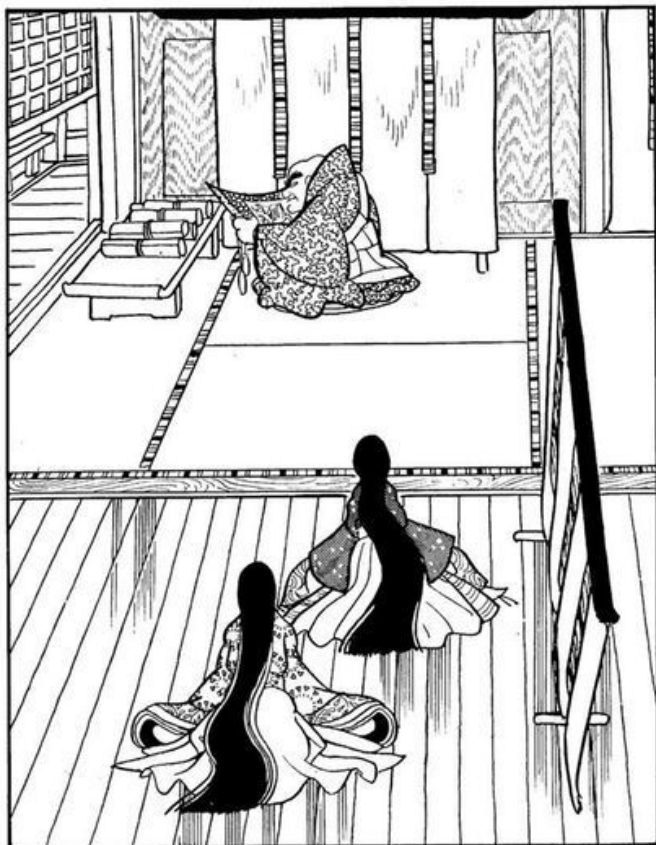
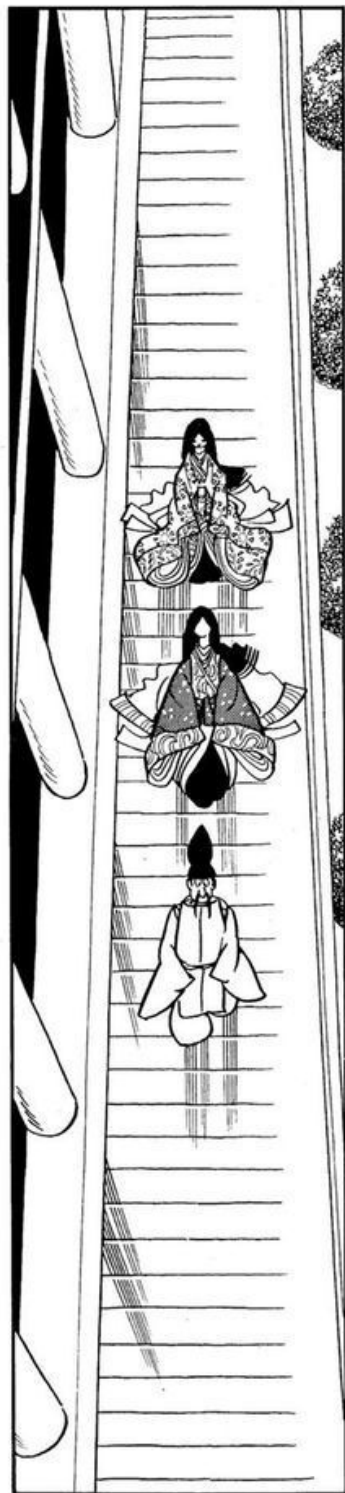
COMING...!

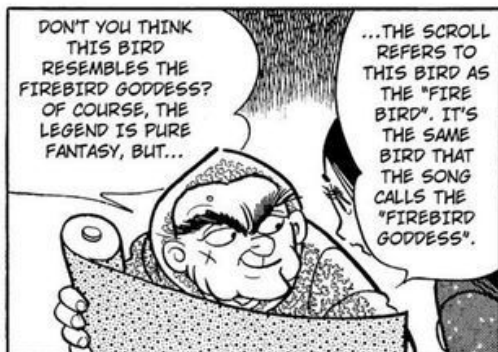
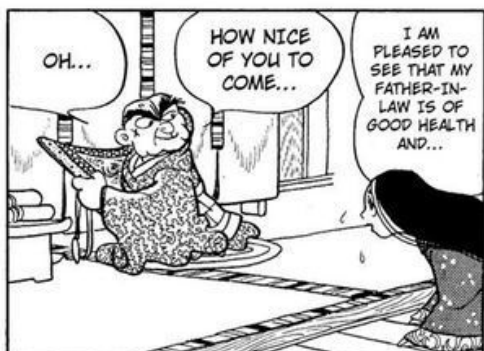


WE'VE
ARRIVED AT
THE PALACE,
YOUR
LADYSHIP...











DO YOU UNDERSTAND
WHAT THIS MEANS?
IT MEANS ANYONE
WHO DRINKS THIS
BIRD'S BLOOD WILL
BECOME IMMORTAL!

PRETTY
GOOD,
EH?



AND
THAT'S
NOT
ALL...

THERE'S EVIDENCE
THAT THIS BIRD
LIVED NOT ONLY IN
CHINA BUT IN JAPAN
AS WELL!



WE'RE FORTUNATE
TO BE TRADING
WITH THE SONG.
OTHERWISE,
WE'D NEVER
HAVE LEARNED
THIS.

AH! TO GET A
GLIMPSE OF
THIS BIRD OF
FIRE!
WOULDN'T
THAT BE
SOMETHING!?



I SPENT THIRTY
YEARS WORKING
LIKE A DOG TO
ENSURE THE
WEALTH AND
PROSPERITY OF
MY CLAN.

BUT SINCE I
BECAME ILL
FOUR YEARS
AGO, I'VE HAD
THIS FEELING
THAT I WON'T BE
AROUND MUCH
LONGER.

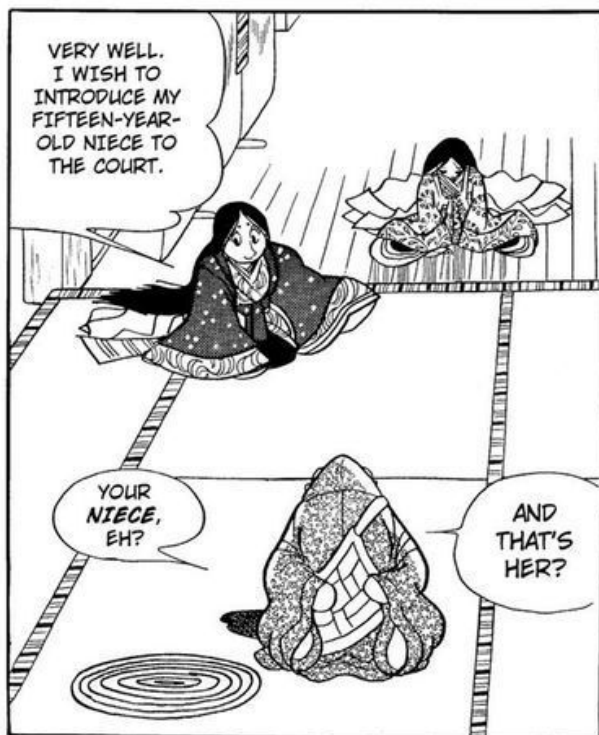


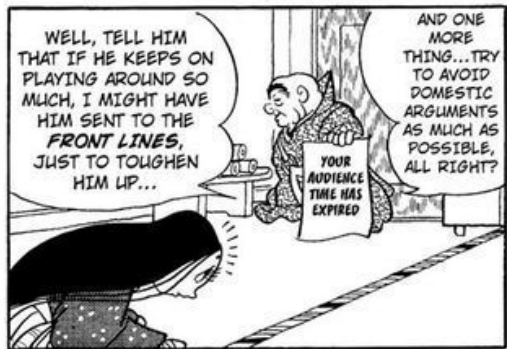
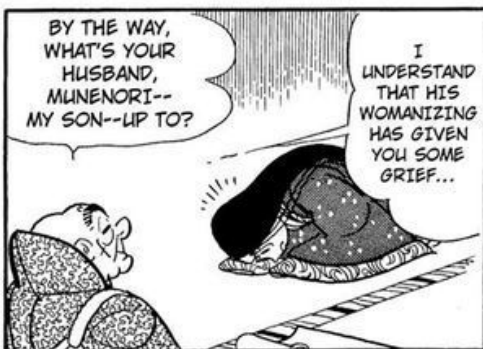
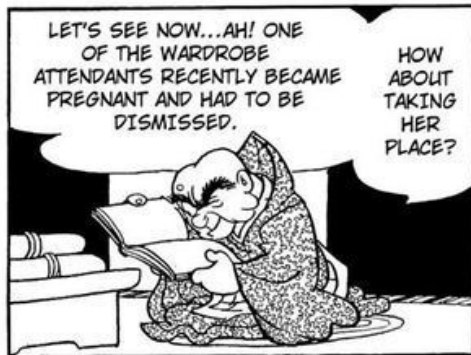
I CAN'T
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT MY
DEATH...
...AND
WHEN MY
TIME WILL
COME...



SO NOW,
I'VE
BECOME
OBSESSED
WITH THIS
FIREBIRD...

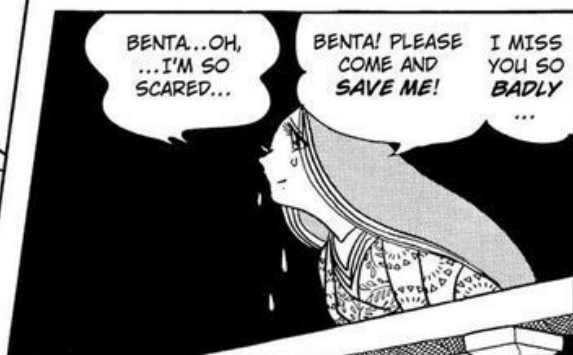
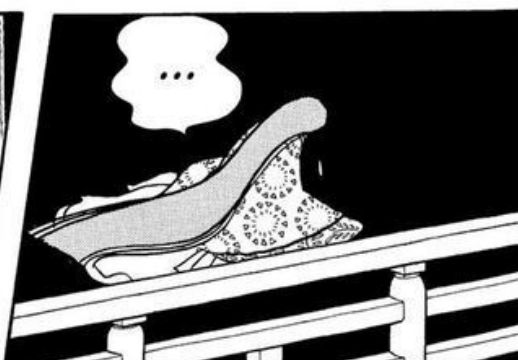
IT REALLY
SHOWS HOW
OLD AND
DECREPIT
I'VE
BECOME...

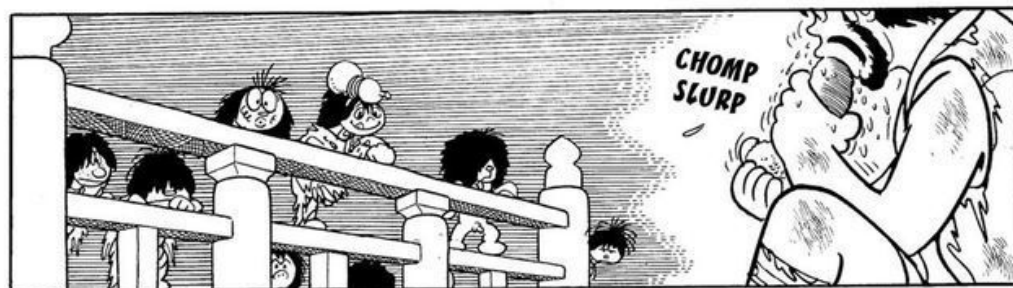
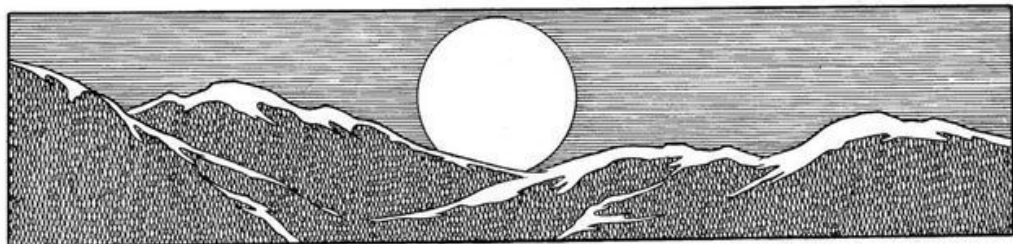


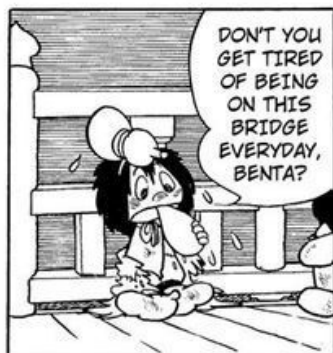












I KNOW OBU'S
STILL ALIVE
SOMEWHERE!
SHE'S
SOMEWHERE IN
THE CAPITAL!!

AN' SOMEDAY
I'M GONNA FIND
HER! I KNOW
I WILL!

YEAH...IT'S AN
ASSOCIATION FOR
WAR-ORPHANS LIKE
ME, WHO'VE HAD
THEIR PARENTS
KILLED AND THEIR
HOUSES BURNED
DOWN BY CRAZY
SAMURAI!

BEGGAR'S
ASSOCI-
ATION?

HEY,
BENTA...WHY
DON'T YOU
JOIN OUR
BEGGARS'
ASSOCIATION...

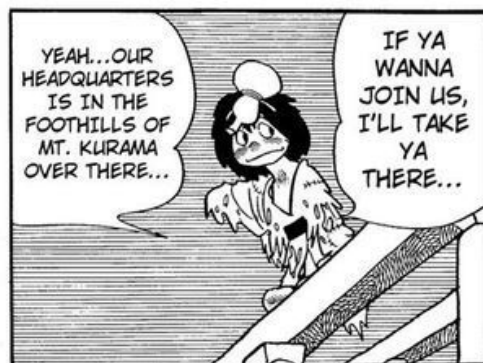
WELL, YER PARENTS
WERE KILLED BY
SAMURAI, AND YER
HOUSE WAS BURNED
DOWN, RIGHT? HEY,
YER MORE THAN
QUALIFIED!

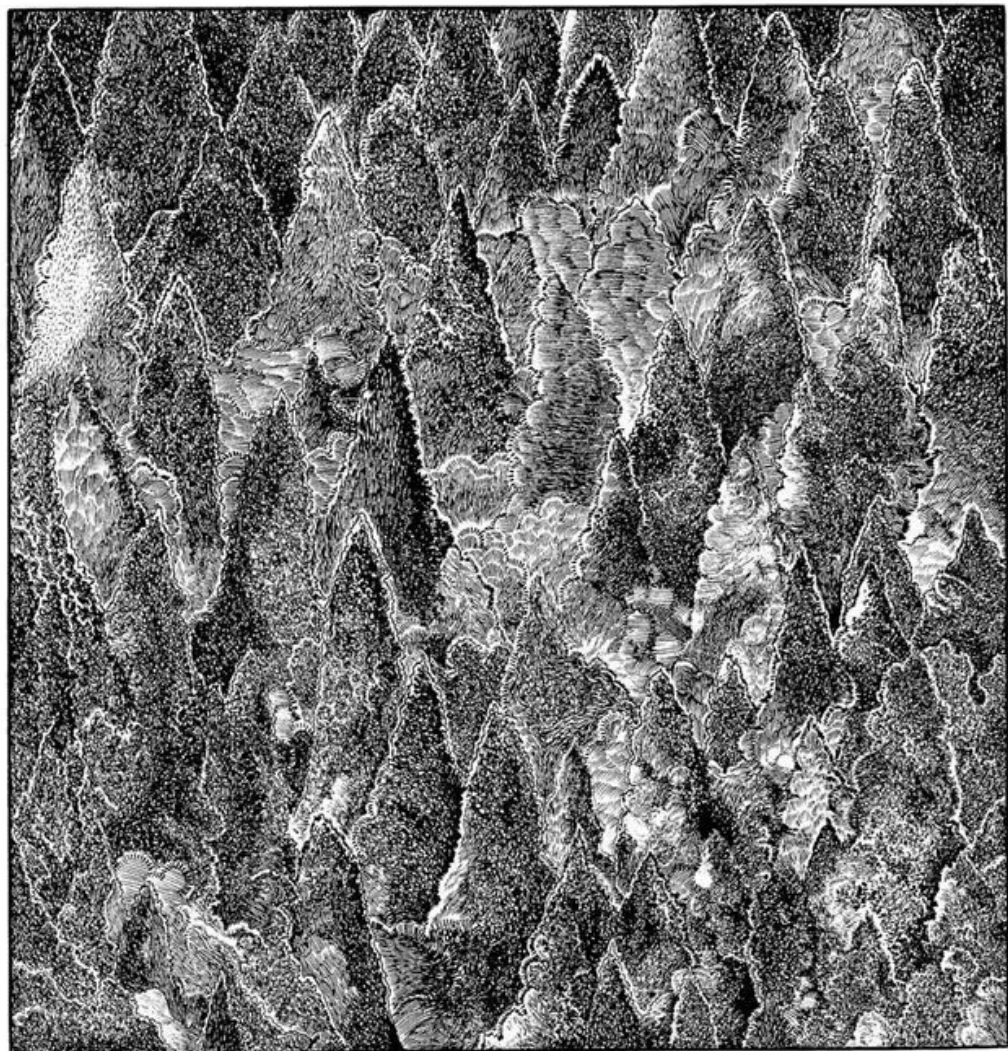
YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
KIDDING!!

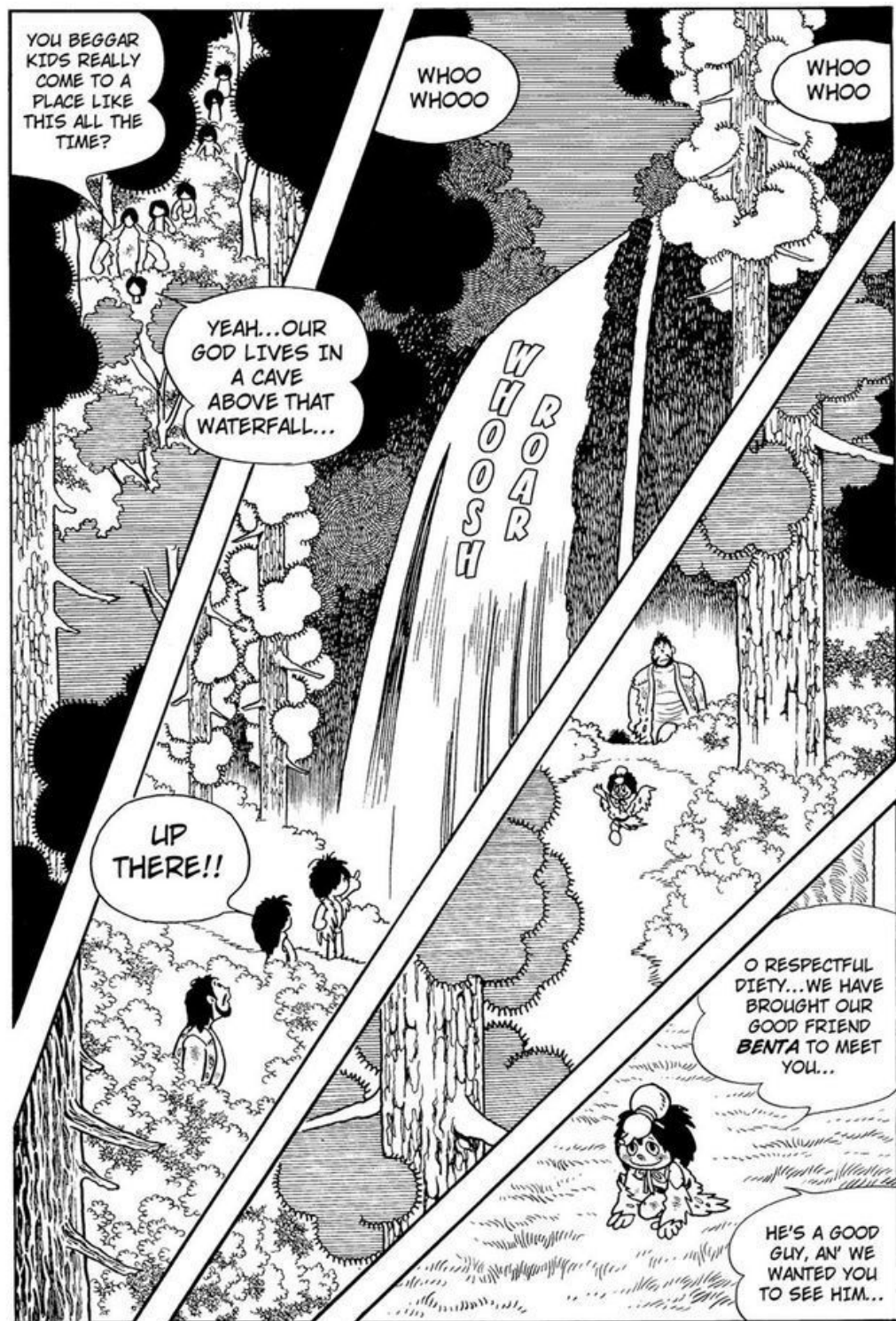
THERE'S
ALWAYS GONNA
BE FIGHTING
AS LONG AS
THERE'S
SAMURAI LIKE
THAT AROUND...

SO WE FIGURED
WE OUGHTA PUT
TOGETHER AN
ASSOCIATION
FOR BEGGARS,
SO WE CAN HELP
EACH OTHER OUT
WHEN THE TIME
COMES...

THEY EVEN SAY
ANOTHER BIG WAR'S
COMING...AN' IT'LL
BE STARTED BY
PEOPLE WHO HATE
THE TAIRA CLAN, LIKE
LOTS OF THE NOBLES
AND PEOPLE IN THE
GENJI CLAN...







YOU BEGGAR
KIDS REALLY
COME TO A
PLACE LIKE
THIS ALL THE
TIME?

WHOO
WHOOO

WHOO
WHOO

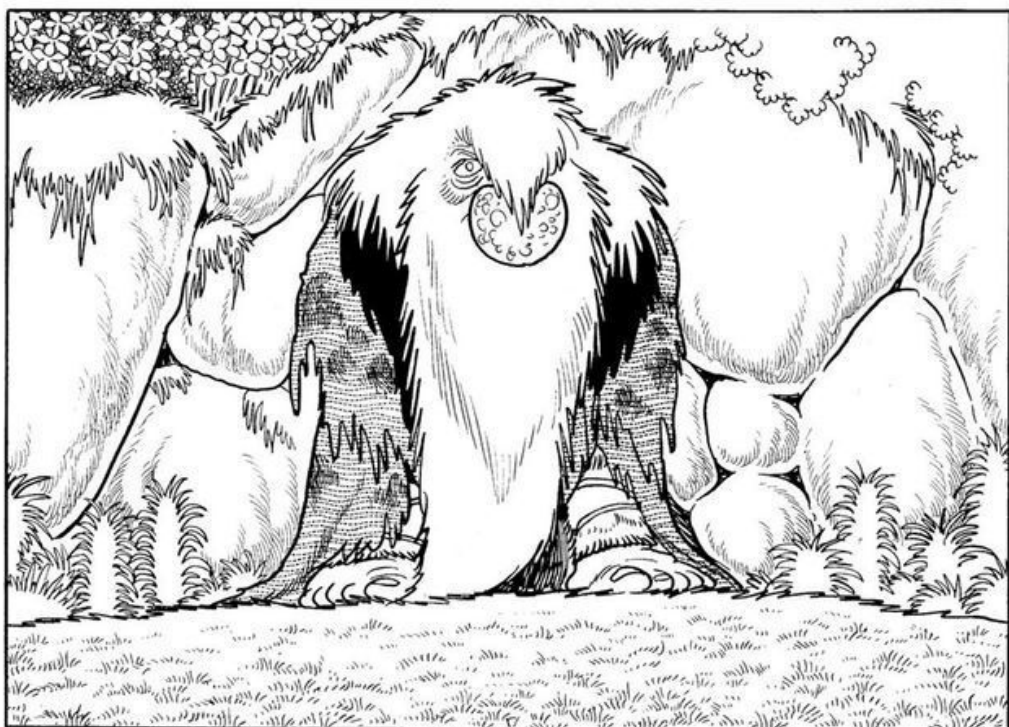
YEAH...OUR
GOD LIVES IN
A CAVE
ABOVE THAT
WATERFALL...

WHOO
WHOOO

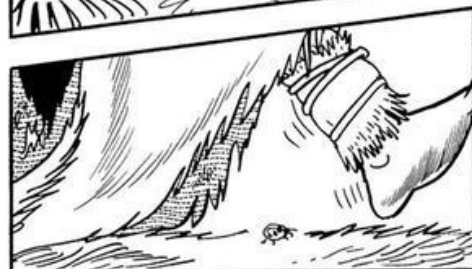
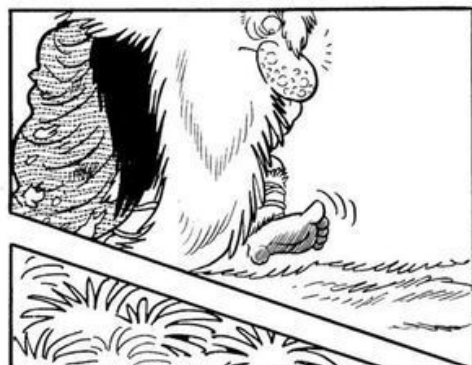
UP
THERE!!

O RESPECTFUL
DIETY...WE HAVE
BROUGHT OUR
GOOD FRIEND
BENTA TO MEET
YOU...

HE'S A GOOD
GUY, AN' WE
WANTED YOU
TO SEE HIM...

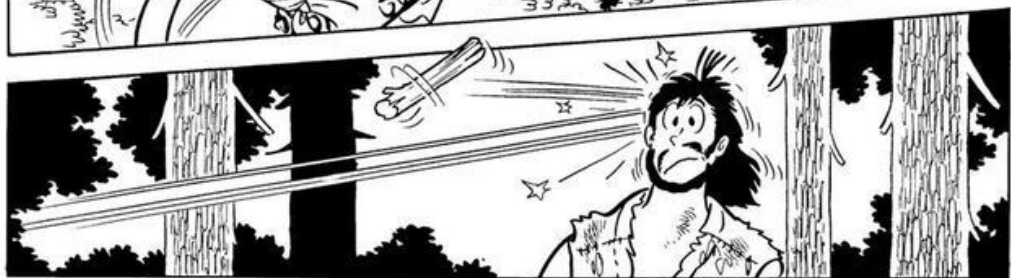


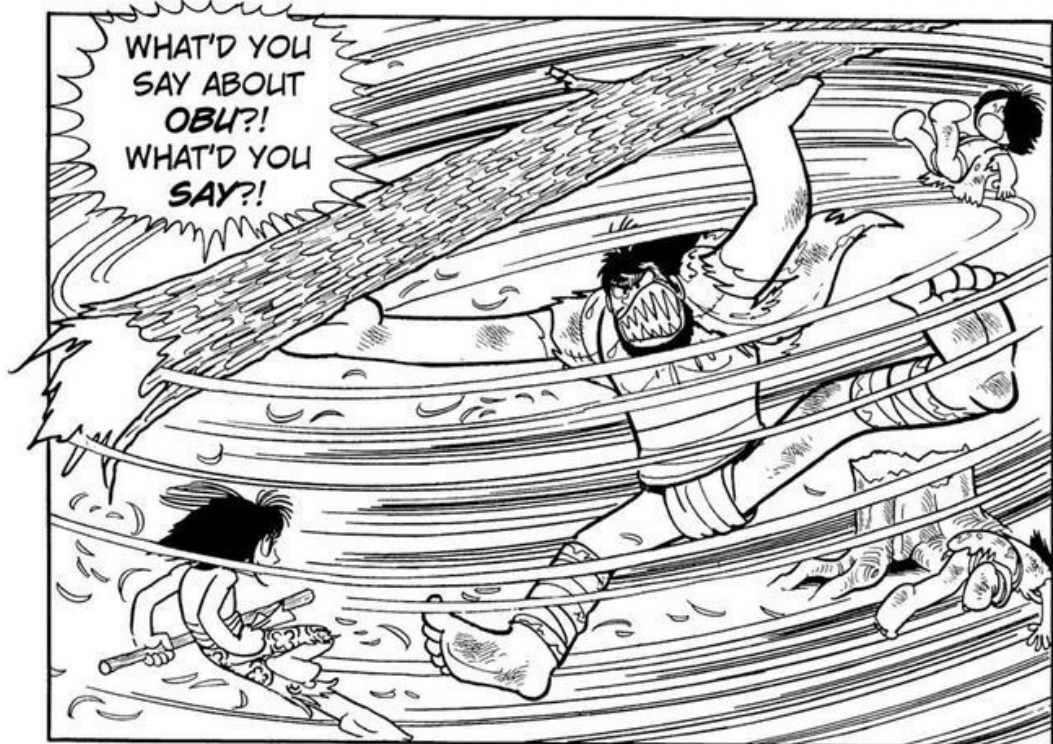
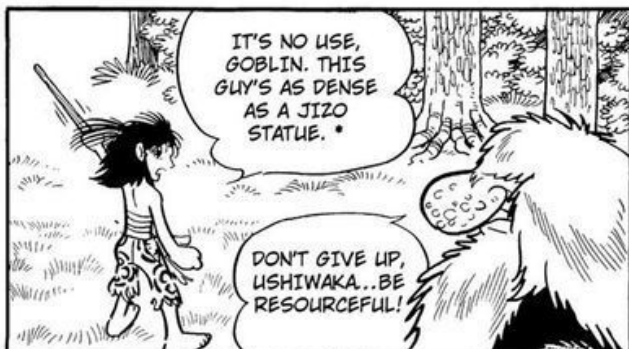




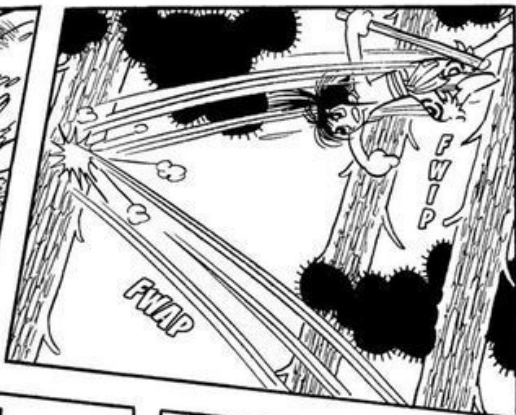








*SMALL STONE STATUES OF JIZO, THE BUDDHIST PATRON SAINT OF CHILDREN, ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE JAPANESE COUNTRYSIDE









GOSH,
WHERE'RE
YOU TAKING
US?

I HAVE SOMETHING
TO SHOW YOU
BOTH... BUT
ESPECIALLY YOUNG
USHIWAKA.

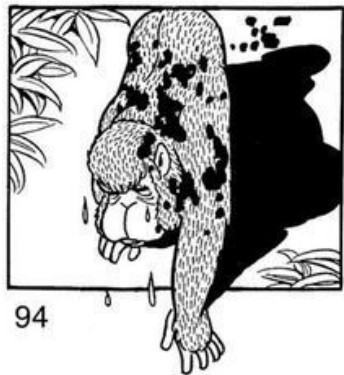
FOR AN OLD CODGER,
THE OL' GOBLIN SURE
HASN'T LOST A STEP...!

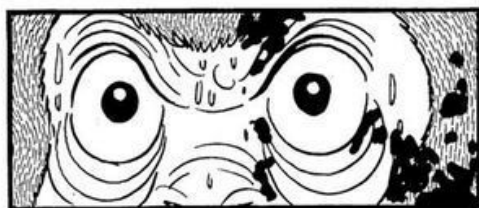
WHOSE
GRAVES
ARE
THESE?

WELL,
AKABE
WAS THE
NAME OF A
MONKEY.
AND
SHIROBE,
THE NAME
OF A DOG.

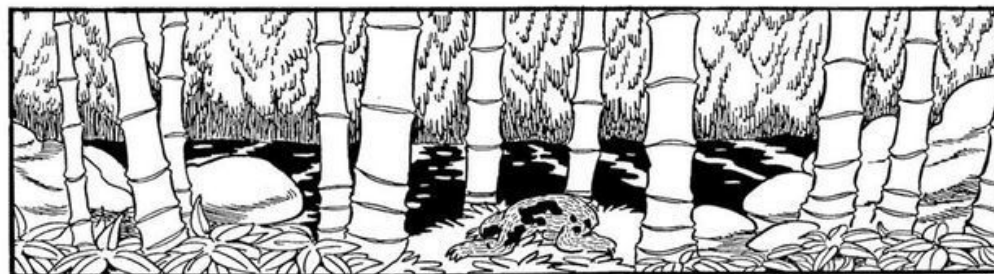
WHAT'S
THIS? IT
SAYS
"AKABE"
AND
"SHIROBE."

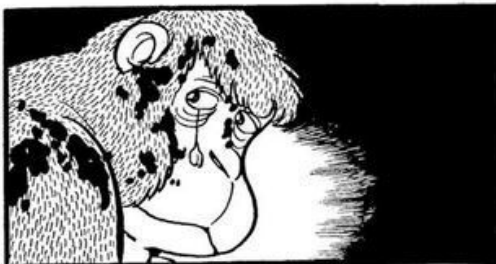
RESTING PLACE OF AKABE
RESTING PLACE OF SHIROBE





AKABE STILL HOPED TO EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THE MOUNTAIN, WHERE HE WOULD TRY AGAIN TO DEFEAT THE BLACK MONK AND WIN BACK HIS SWEETHEART.



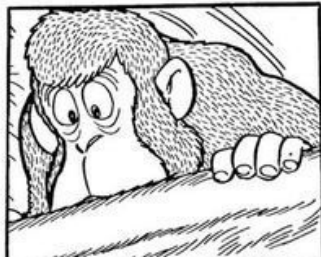


I TOOK
AKABE
BACK TO MY
HUT AND
TREATED
HIS
WOUNDS.
AND HE
EVENTUALLY
CAME TO
TRUST ME.

HE FELT SAFE
IN MY HOME
AND BECAME
PART OF THE
HOUSEHOLD.

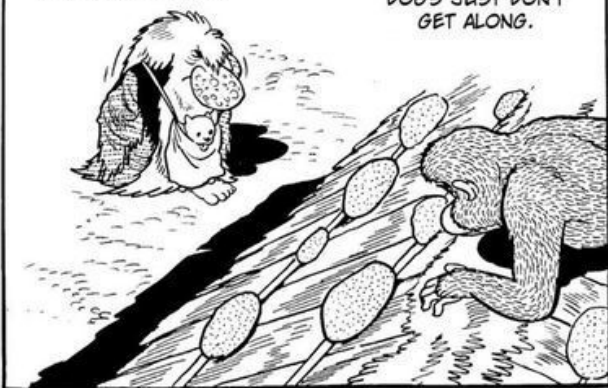


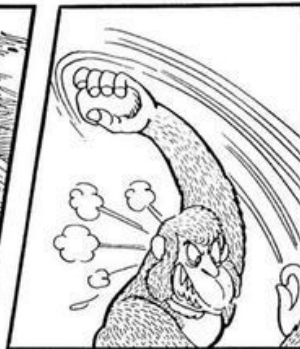
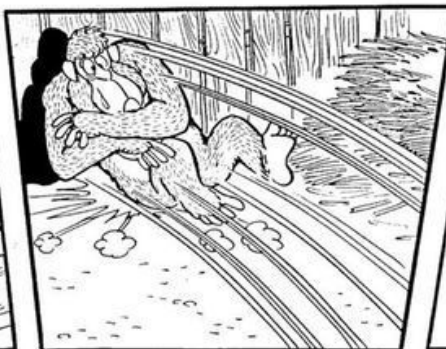
THEN ONE DAY, I
PICKED UP A STRAY
WHITE PUPPY AND
BROUGHT HIM
HOME, TOO...

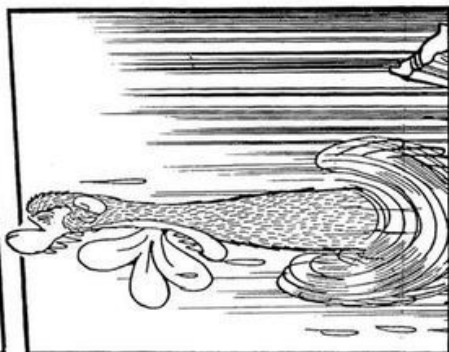
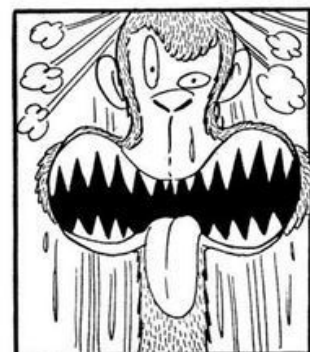
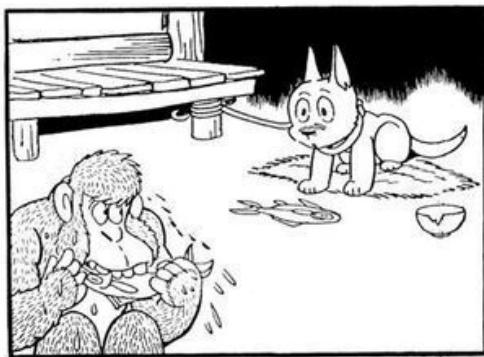
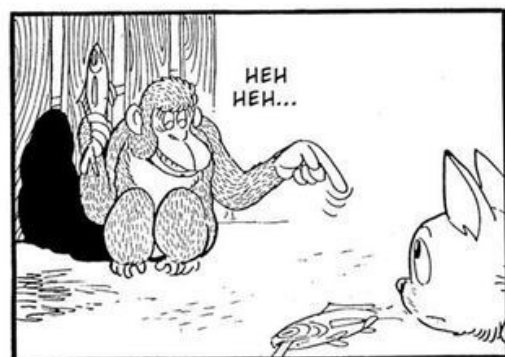
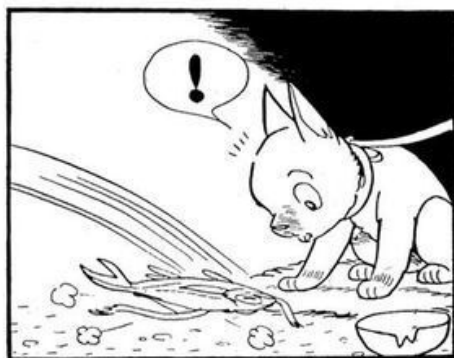
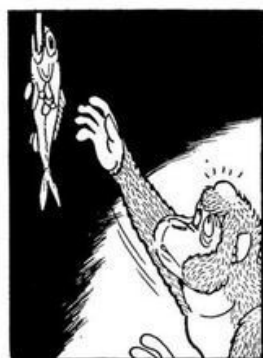
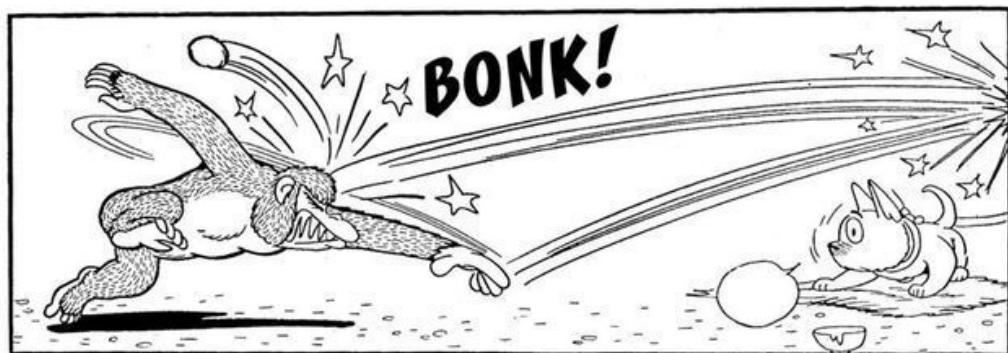


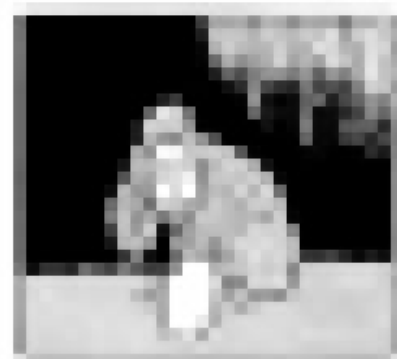
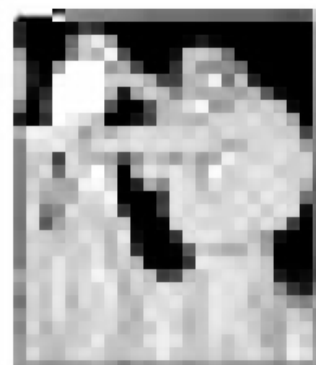
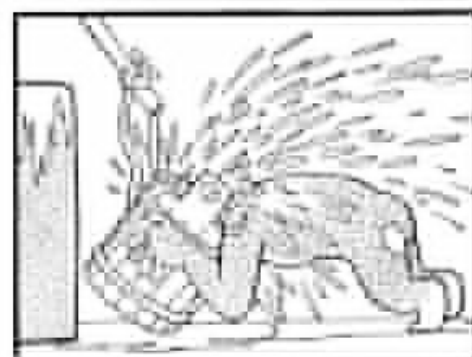
THAT'S WHEN ALL THE
TROUBLE STARTED.

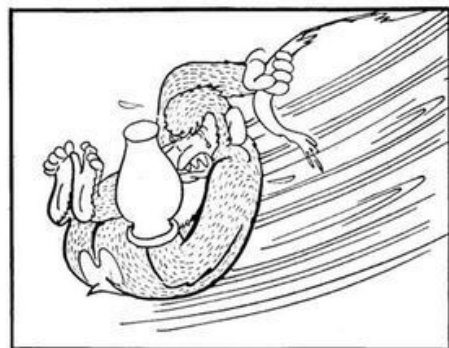
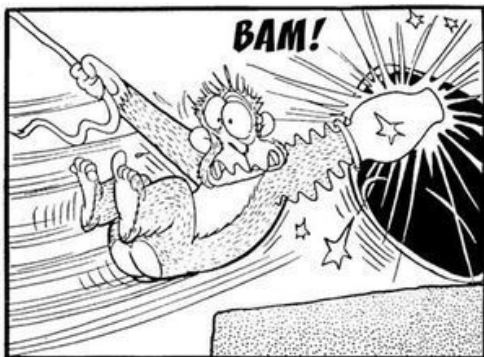
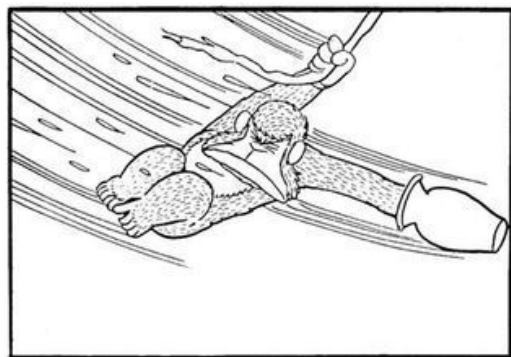
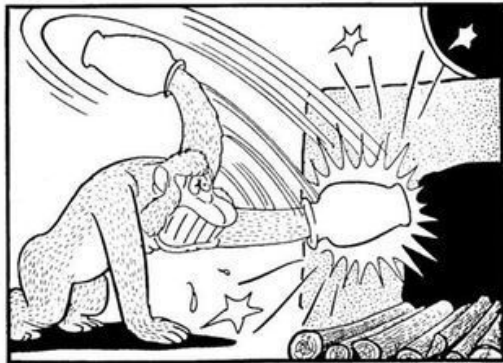
MONKEYS AND
DOGS JUST DON'T
GET ALONG.











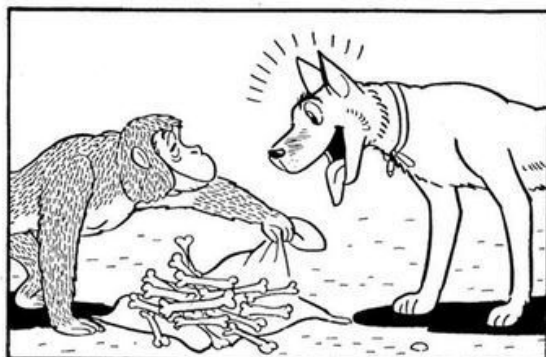
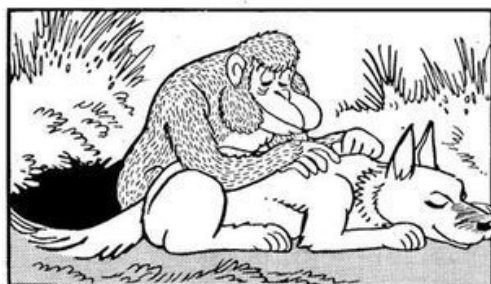
FINALLY,
AFTER ALL
THE
FIGHTING...

...THE TWO
MANAGED TO
LEARN TO
TRUST EACH
OTHER...AND
EVEN **HELP**
ONE ANOTHER.

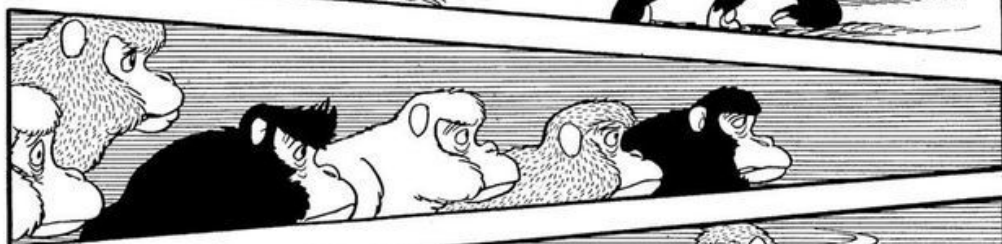


EVENTUALLY,
THEY GREW
TO BE LIKE
BLOOD
BROTHERS.









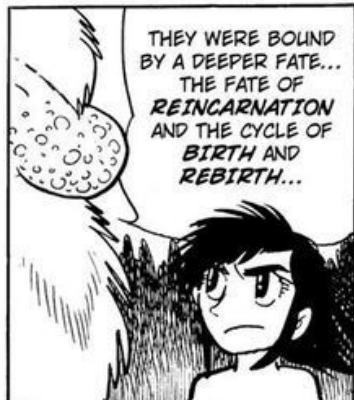


AKABE'S PLAN SUCCEEDED. HAVING SHIROBE APPEAR AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT DISTRACTED THE BLACK MONK FOR AN INSTANT, GIVING AKABE THE CHANCE TO STRIKE AT HIS THROAT. IT WAS OVER IN A FLASH, AND WITH THIS VICTORY, AKABE REGAINED POWER OVER HIS MOUNTAIN HOME.

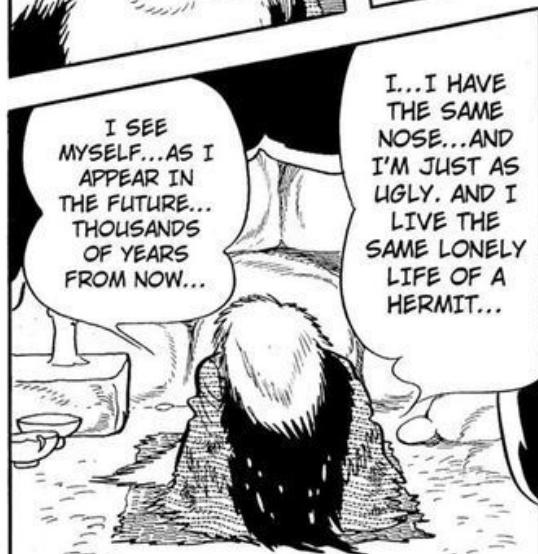




THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AKABE AND SHIROBE THUS BROUGHT GOOD FORTUNE TO AKABE... EVEN AFTER AKABE BECAME BOSS OF HIS CLAN AGAIN, HE WOULD OFTEN RETURN TO MY HUT AND REKINDLE HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SHIROBE...









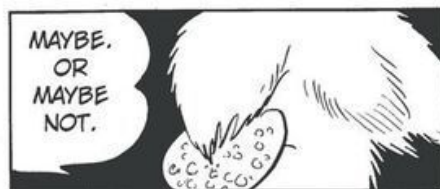
MY MASTER IN THOSE DAYS TOLD ME THAT ALL LIVING THINGS ARE REBORN AFTER THEY DIE.

BUT A PERSON DOESN'T NECESSARILY COME BACK AS A HUMAN IN THE FUTURE. HE MIGHT BE EVEN BE REBORN PERMANENTLY AS A BUG.



SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT EVEN BUGS...

...MIGHT HAVE BEEN PEOPLE SOME TIME IN THE PAST?



MAYBE. OR MAYBE NOT.



I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE ...

IT SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE...



WELL, I...

...I BELIEVE IN MY DREAMS.

AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO RETURN TO THE WORLD OF HUMANS AGAIN.



WELL, WISH WHAT YOU WANT! BUT DON'T GET TOO WRAPPED UP IN SOME BAD DREAM, OLD MAN.

YOU'LL GET TOO DISTRACTED AND THAT'LL BE IT FOR YOU...SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?



HEH...WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT ETERNITY...?

ALL I WANT IS TO DESTROY THOSE SNOOTY OLD BLUE BLOODS IN THE TAIRA GOVERNMENT. THAT'S ALL!



WHY
DIDN'T YOU
LISTEN TO
ME, OLD
GOBLIN...?

YOU WERE
OKAY JUST
TWO OR
THREE DAYS
AGO...

YOU
THINK HE'S
GONNA DIE,
USHIWAKA?



N...NO!
HE
CAN'T
DIE!

YEAH...HE'S OUR
GOD! AN' HE'S
ALREADY LIVED
FOR FOUR
HUNDRED
YEARS!

OLD
GOBLIN...
DON'T
GIVE
UP!



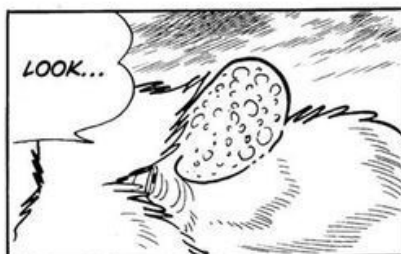
ISN'T THERE
SOMETHING
WE CAN DO
FOR YOU?


YES...TAKE
THE DOOR
OFF MY OLD
HUT, PUT ME
ON IT, AND
CARRY ME
TO THE TOP
OF THE MOUNTAIN...



I'M SORRY,
BOYS... BUT
IT'S ABOUT TIME
I SAID GOODBYE
TO THIS OLD,
BEAT UP BODY
OF MINE.

BUT DON'T WORRY,
I WON'T BE
GOING VERY FAR...
I'LL PROBABLY JUST
BECOME A FISTFUL
OF DIRT ON THIS
OLD MOUNTAIN.



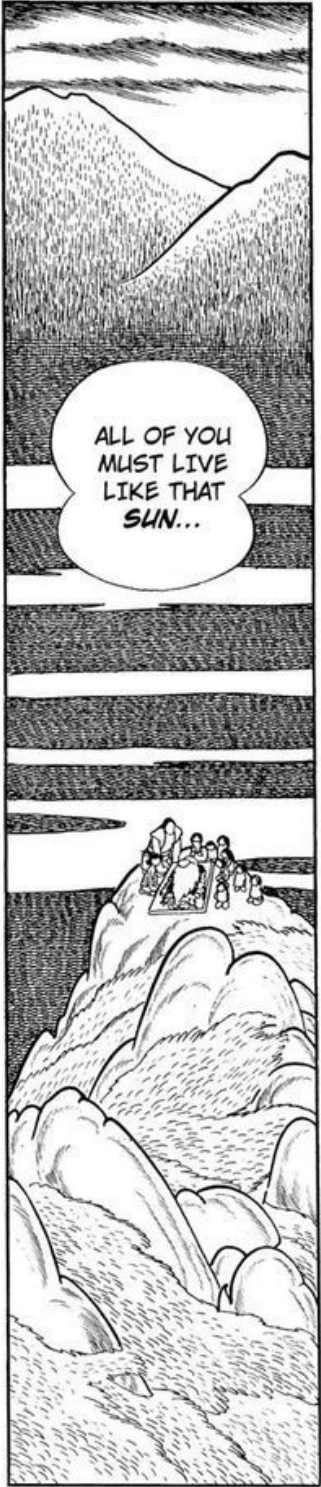


...THE TIME
WHEN MY
TWISTED SOUL
CAUSED ME TO
KILL PEOPLE...

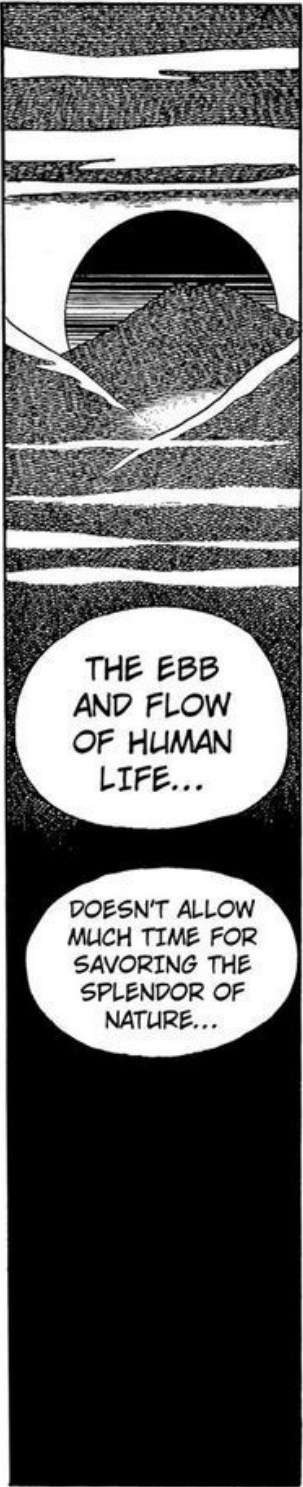
...THE TIME
WHEN I
TRAVELED
THROUGHOUT
JAPAN WITH
MY MASTER...

...THE TIME I
LOST MY ARMS
AND CAME TO
LIVE HERE
ON KURAMA
MOUNTAIN...

THROUGHOUT ALL
THESE PERIODS, THE
SETTING SUN WAS
AS BEAUTIFUL THEN
AS IT IS HERE
NOW...



ALL OF YOU
MUST LIVE
LIKE THAT
SUN...



THE EBB
AND FLOW
OF HUMAN
LIFE...

DOESN'T ALLOW
MUCH TIME FOR
SAVORING THE
SPLENDOR OF
NATURE...

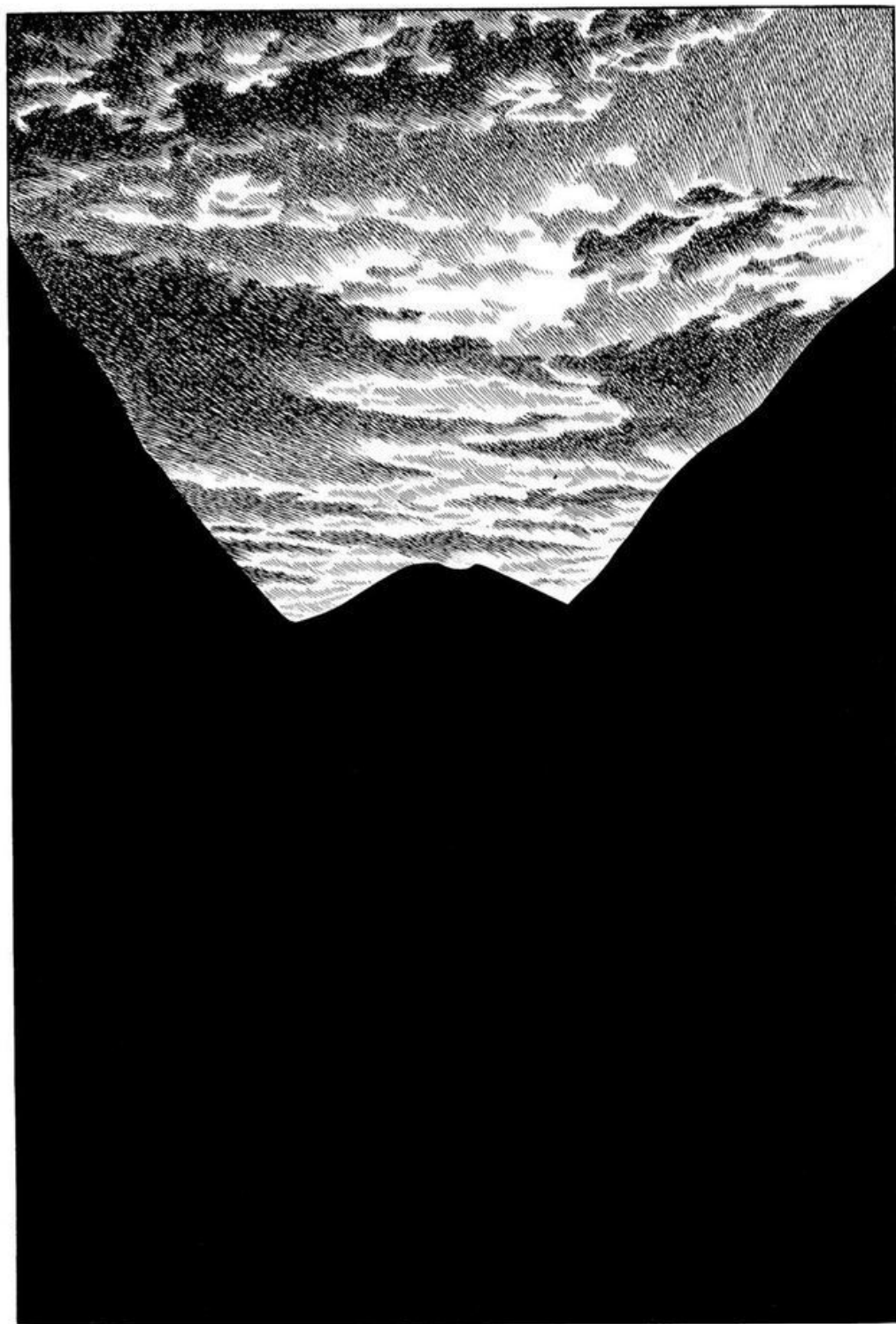


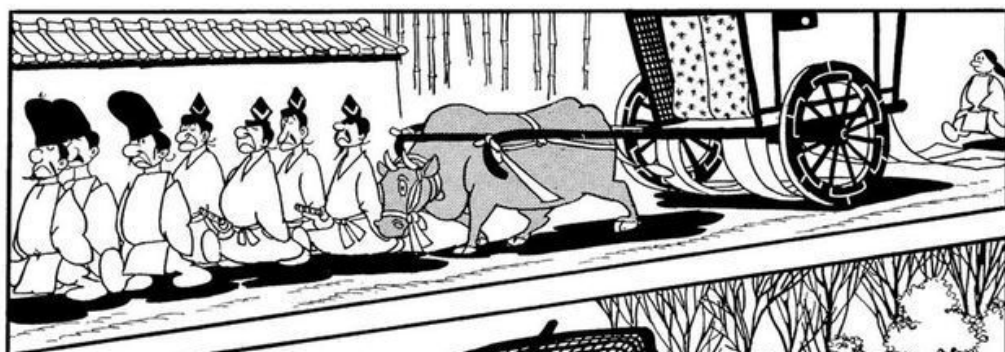
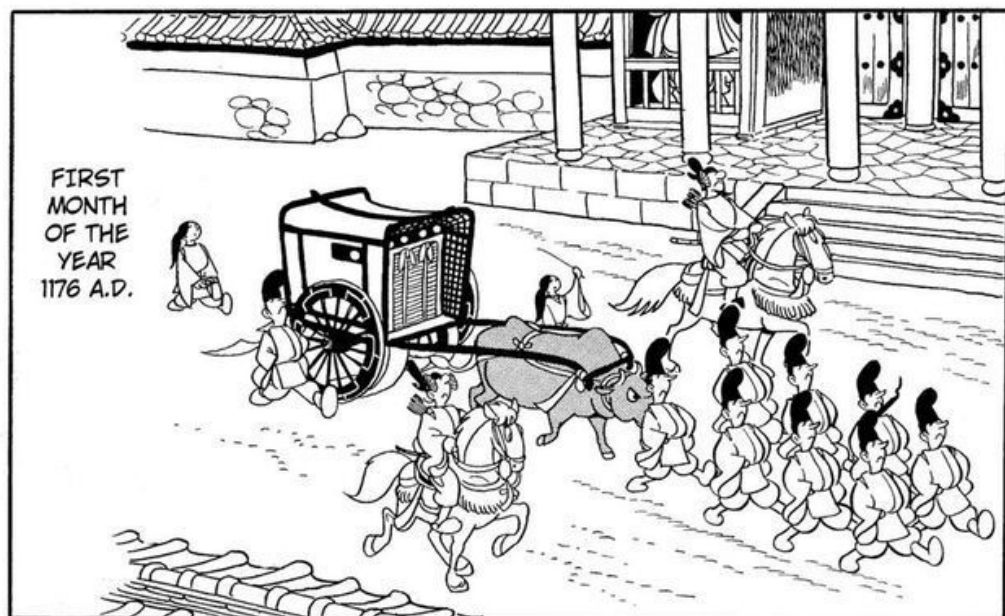
LOOK! THE
FIREBIRD
HAS COME
FOR ME!

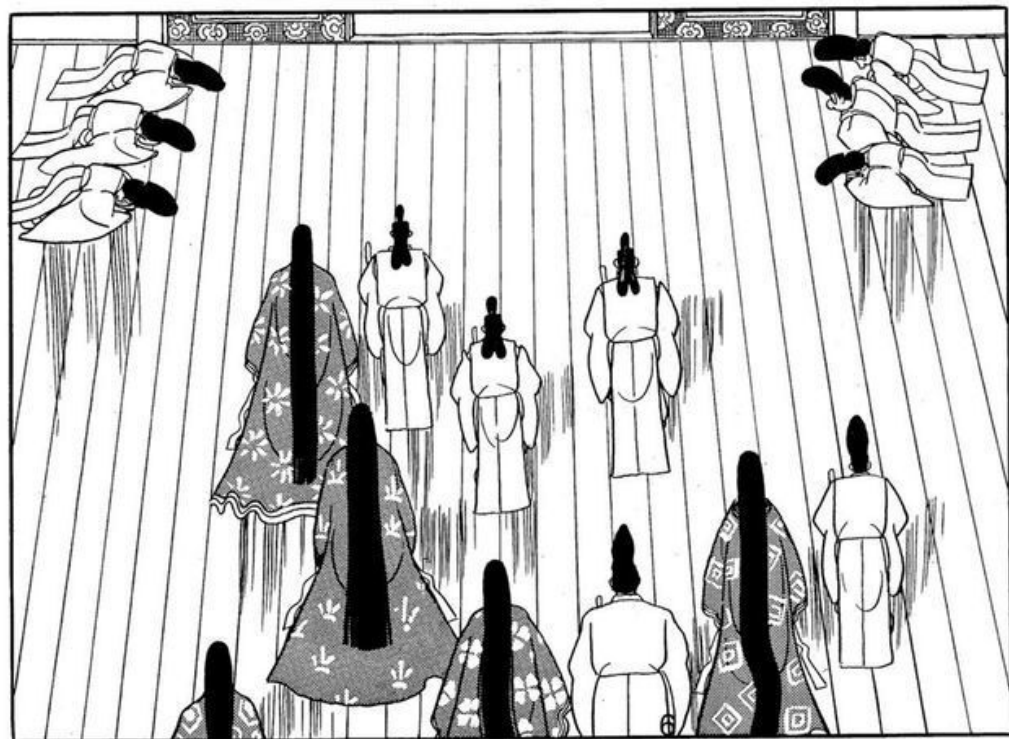
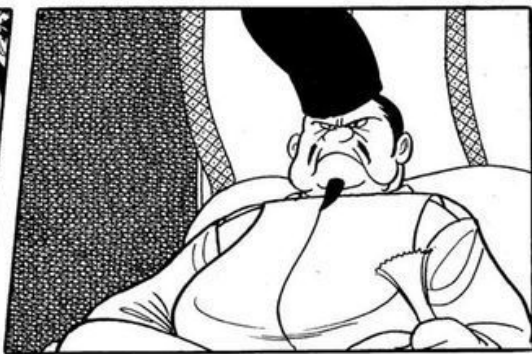


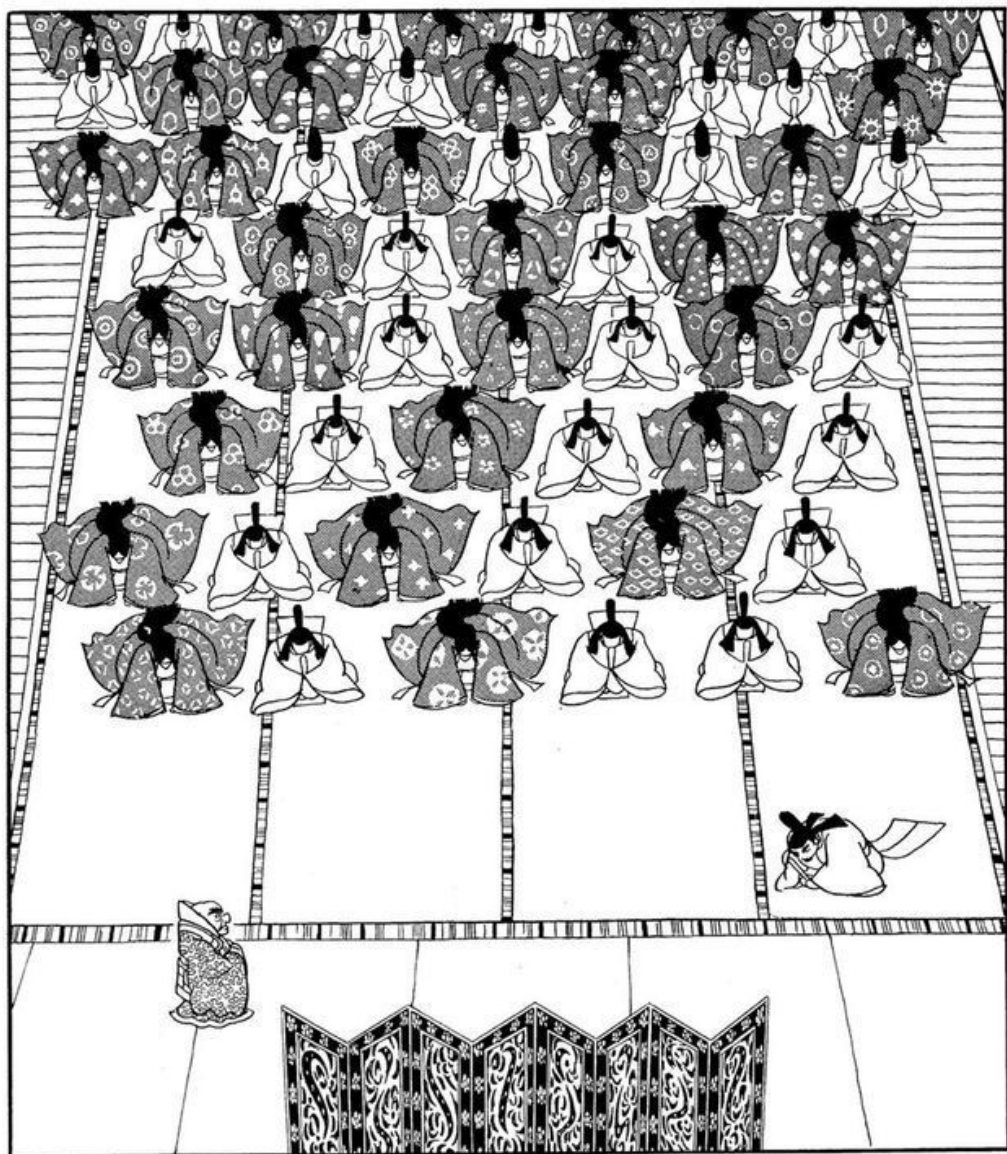
OLD
GOBLIN
!

MASTER
!!









NOW
THEN...



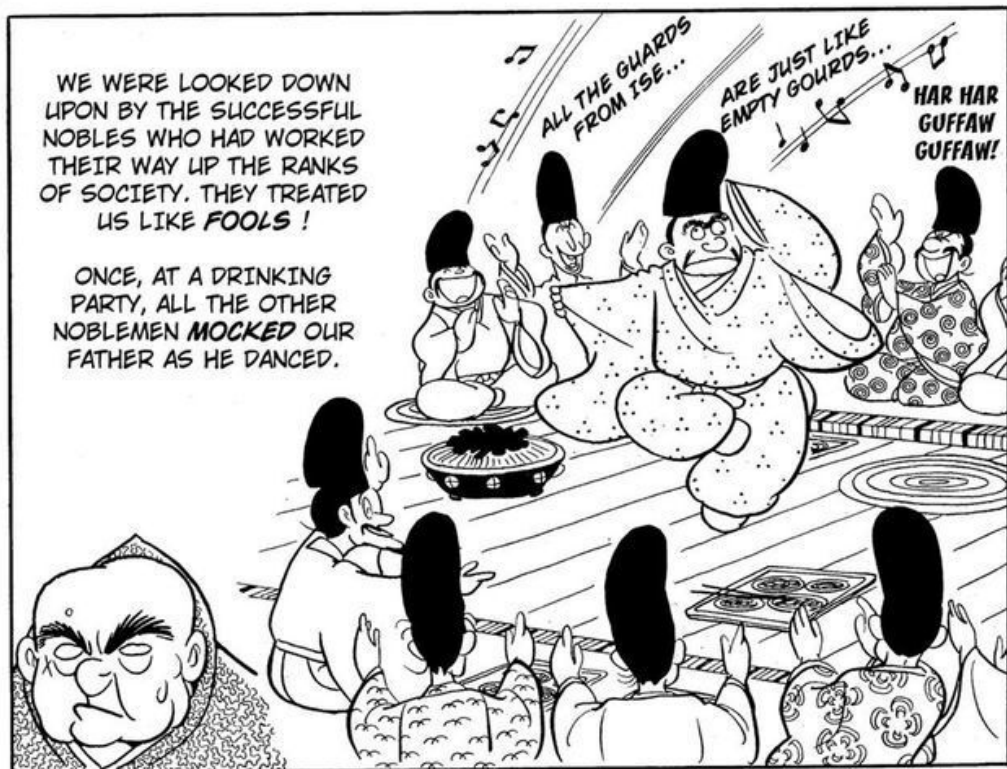
TO
CELEBRATE
THE ARRIVAL
OF THE NEW
YEAR...

...WE
HUMBLY
PRAY FOR AN
ENDLESS
WORLD OF
GOOD
FORTUNE...



*NOTE: TAIRA NO TOKITADA, KIYOMORI'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
TAIRA NO SHIGEMORI, KIYOMORI'S ELDEST SON.
TAIRA NO MUNEMORI, KIYOMORI'S SECOND SON.







AS I LOOK AT
THE GLORY OF
OUR FAMILY
NOW, THOSE
DAYS SEEM
ALMOST LIKE
A DREAM...

IT'S BEEN THIRTY
YEARS...THIRTY
LONG YEARS OF
SCRAMBLING TO
ADVANCE AND
SUCCEED...



BUT LOOK AT
ALL OF YOU NOW!!
I CAN SEE THAT
YOU'VE COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN
THOSE HARD
TIMES. YOU'VE
BECOME
**COMPLACENT AND
SPOILED.**

IS THERE
EVEN ONE
AMONG YOU THAT
SINCERELY
CARES ABOUT
THE WELL BEING
OF OUR CLAN?



WELL? WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
MUNEMORI?

zzzz



HE'S
TALKING
TO YOU,
DEAR!!!

WHA?!
ME?!!



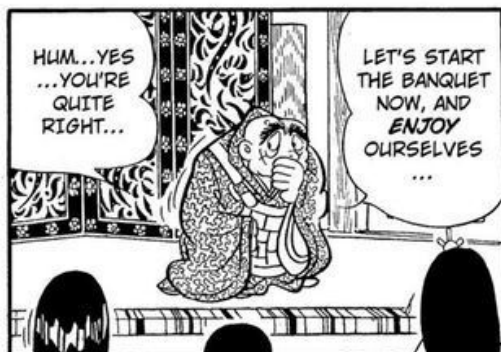
AND WE
MUST ALL
<HIC>
RESPECTFULLY
HONOR OUR
BELOVED
MOTHERS
AND
FATHERS....!

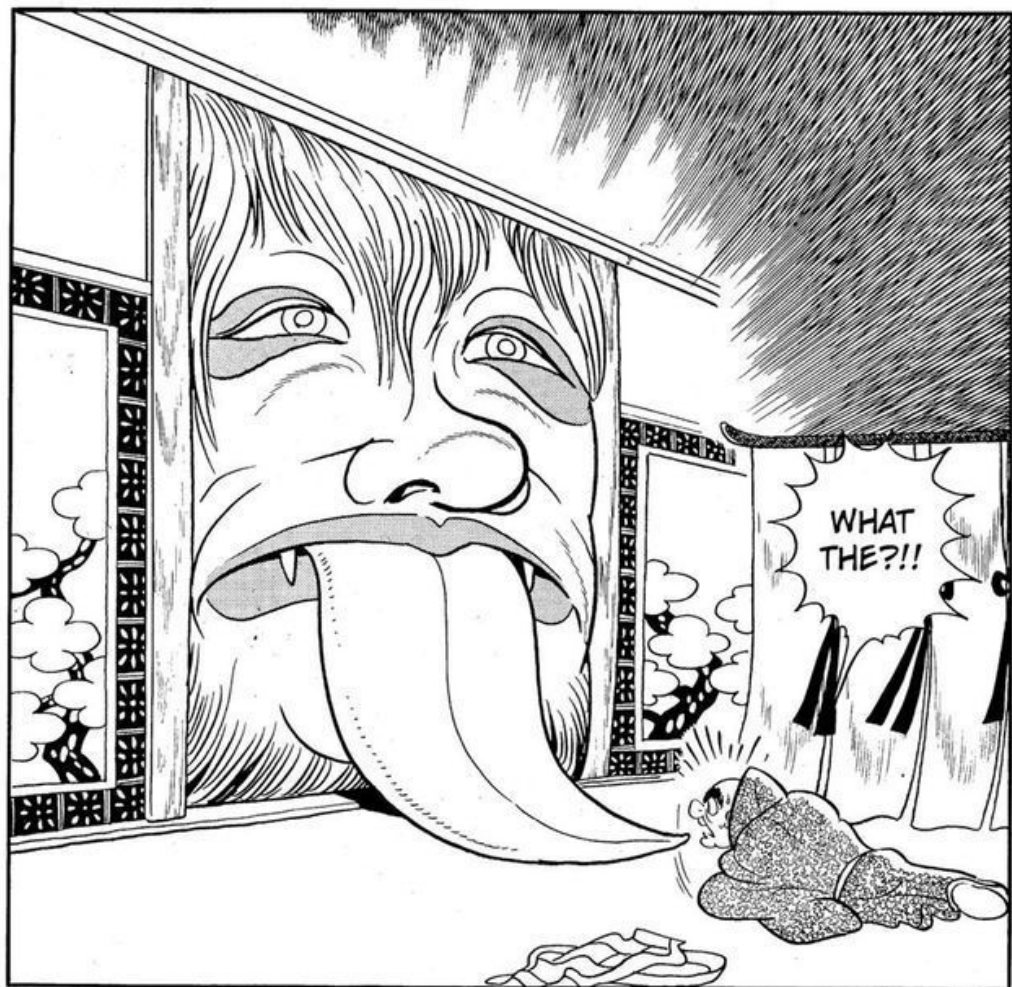
HAR HAR!
DRUNK ON
NEW
YEAR'S
DAY!!

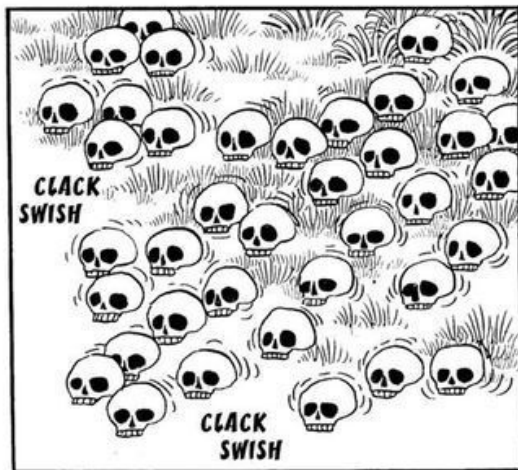
ALL I HAVE ARE
SHAMELESS SONS
AND WORTHLESS
RELATIVES...OH,
HOW I FEAR FOR
OUR FUTURE...

MY
ONLY
HOPE
IS
SHIGE-
MORI...









NO...
EVIL
SPIRITS...
AGGHH...

YOUR
LORDSHIP...
ARE YOU
UNWELL...?

W...
WATER,
PLEASE
...

GAG...

I...I THINK
I SAW THAT
DREAM
AGAIN...

DID IT LOOK
LIKE I WAS
HAVING ANOTHER
NIGHTMARE...?

YES, YOUR
LORDSHIP...

I SEE THIS SAME DREAM
TOO OFTEN... **SKULLS**
ARE PILED UP IN THE
GARDEN. AND THEY
LAUGH AT ME, RIGHT
IN MY FACE...

AND WHY, OF
ALL DAYS,
WOULD I HAVE
THIS DREAM
AGAIN ON **NEW**
YEAR'S DAY?

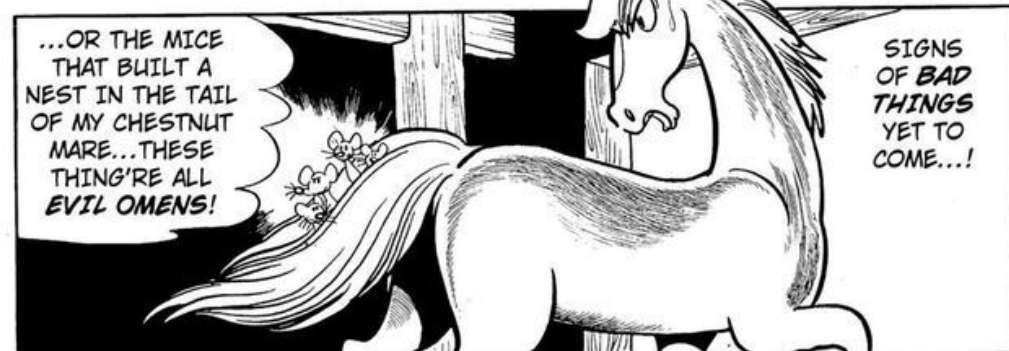
YOU
MUST BE
TIRED,
MY
LORD...

NO...

THIS IS
AN **EVIL**
OMEN...

I HAD
A DREAM
INTERPRETER
AT THE
SHINTO
SHRINE
ANALYZE IT
FOR ME...

HE SAID IT
FORETOLD
GREAT **DANGER**
FOR THE
CLAN. AND
WHAT'S MORE,
HE SAID THAT I
WOULD **DIE**
BEFORE IT
COMES...







AHHH...
THIS
FEELS
GOOD.

YOUR TOUCH
IS AS SOFT
AND WARM
AS THE
FEATHERS
ON A BIRD'S
BREAST...



THAT'S
IT...!

I JUST
REMEM-
BERED!



THE
FIRE-
BIRD!
**THAT'S
IT!**

THE BIRD
THAT GIVES
ETERNAL LIFE
TO ALL THOSE
WHO DRINK
ITS BLOOD?

I MUST HAVE
TOLD YOU
ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
IT'S THE BIRD
THAT LIVES
IN SONG
CHINA! DO YOU
BELIEVE IN
IT, TOO?



AGGHHH!

SOMEONE!
BRING ME
SOME **LIGHT!**

I NEED
LIGHT!!

SOUNDS LIKE
THE MASTER'S
TALKING IN
HIS SLEEP
AGAIN!

I'LL BET
HE'S HAD
ANOTHER
NIGHTMARE
...

WHAT
TIME
IS IT?

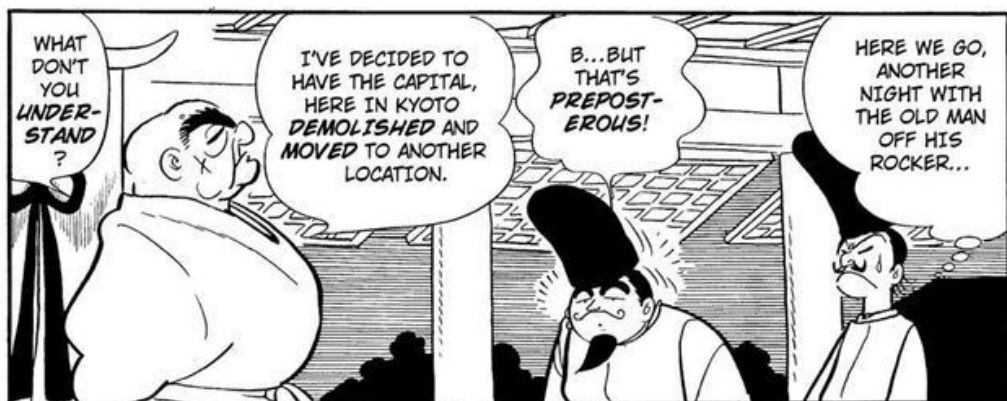
FOUR IN
THE
MORNING,
SIRE!

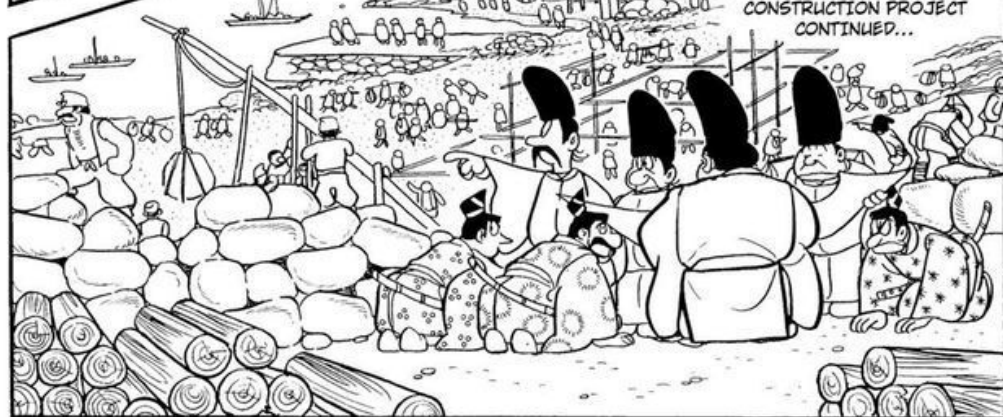
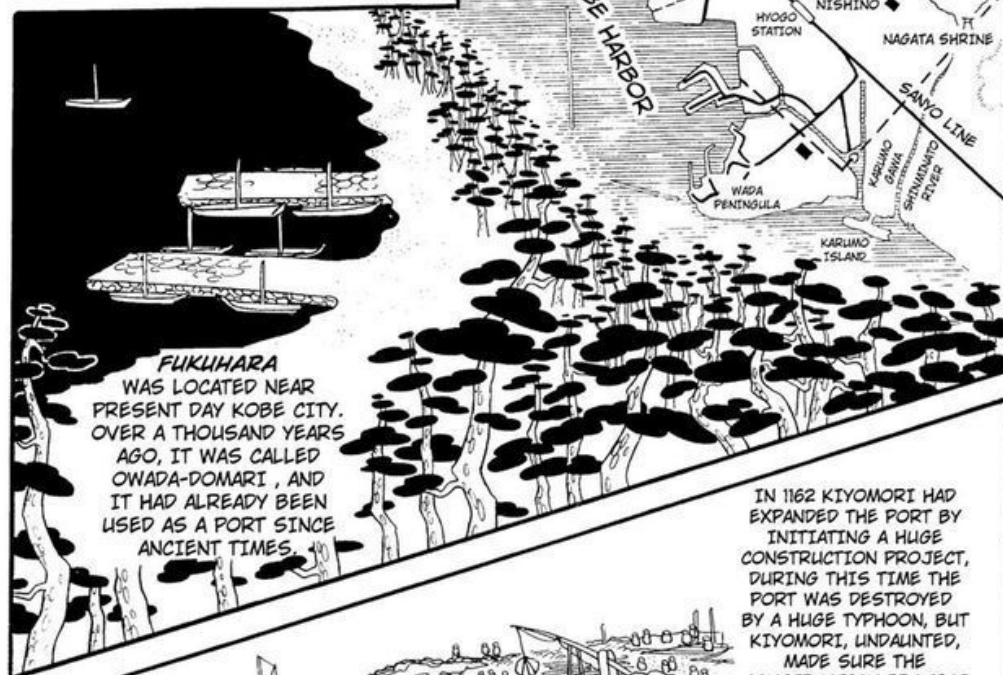
VERY WELL.
WAKE EVERYONE
UP AND HAVE
THEM ASSEMBLE
IMMEDIATELY!

GET
**TOKITADA AND
MUNEMORI...**
OH YES, AND
**SHIGEMORI
TOO!**

SEND SOMEONE TO ROUST THEM! I
WANT THEM HERE **RIGHT AWAY!** TELL
THEM I HAVE A **VERY IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT** TO MAKE!

YESSSIR!!





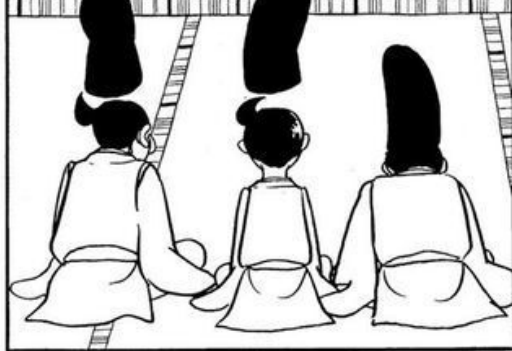
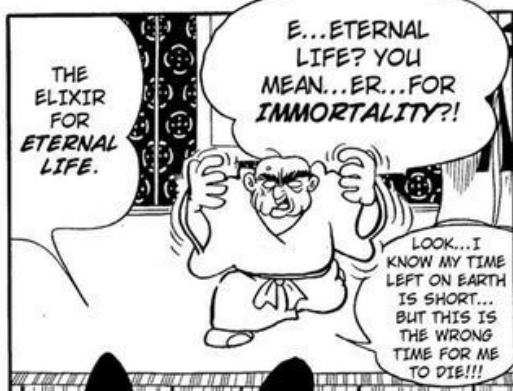
THE EXPANSION OF THE PORT WAS APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT AT A FANATICAL PACE. ACCORDING TO ONE LEGEND, WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION WAS ALMOST COMPLETED, KIYOMORI WAVED HIS FAN AT THE SETTING SUN, IMPLORING IT TO GIVE THE WORKERS MORE TIME TO WORK. THE SUN IS SAID TO HAVE RISEN THE EQUIVALENT OF ANOTHER THREE FINGERS OF HEIGHT, ALLOWING ENOUGH TIME FOR THE REMAINING WORK TO BE DONE.



SHIPS FROM THE SONG, IN CHINA, MADE FREQUENT TRIPS TO THE PORT, AND KIYOMORI MADE GOOD USE OF THIS TRADE, ENCOURAGING COMMERCE WITH HIS ASIAN NEIGHBOR.

STILL, AT THE TIME NO ONE IN THEIR WILDEST DREAMS WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT FUKUHARA COULD ONE DAY BECOME THE NATION'S NEW CAPITAL.







THE FATE OF
OUR ENTIRE
CLAN RESTS
ON MY
SHOULDERS...

SO WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
WILL
HAPPEN
IF I DIE?

WE'D PROBABLY
DISINTEGRATE,
RIGHT?

WELL, I *CAN'T*
LET THAT HAPPEN!
THAT'S WHY
I *MUST* KEEP
ON LIVING!

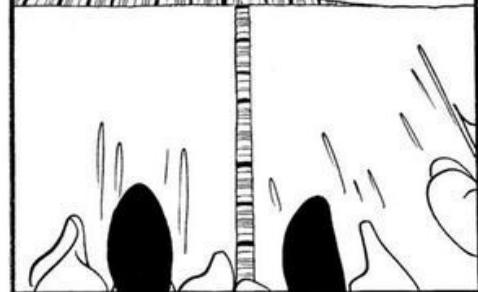
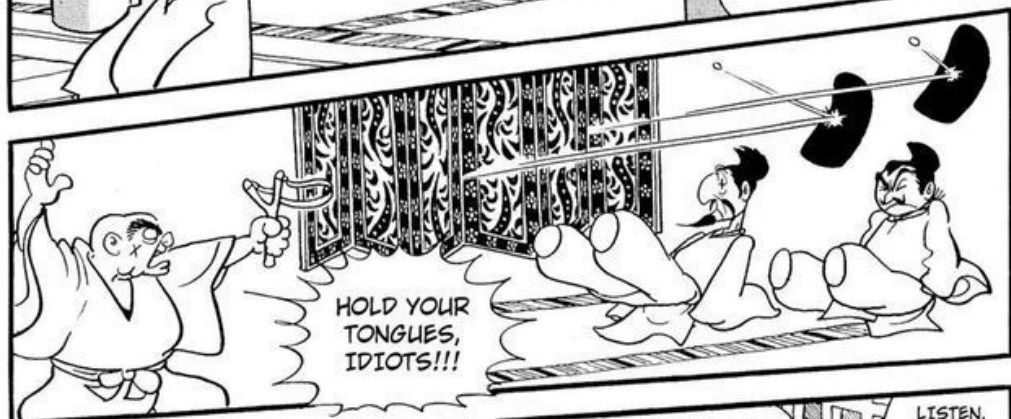
I'VE HEARD A LEGEND ABOUT A BIRD OF
ETERNAL LIFE--A "**FIREBIRD GODDESS**"--
THAT LIVES SOMEWHERE IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF CHINA. WHAT'S MORE,
I'VE HEARD THAT THIS AMAZING
CREATURE ACTUALLY *EXISTS*.

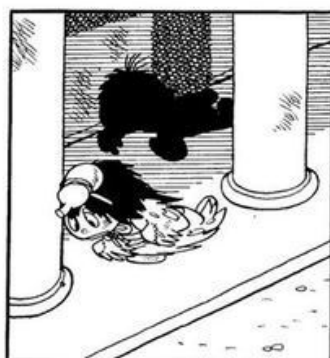
IN FACT,
ACCORDING
TO A
FAMOUS
SCHOLAR
NAMED
TAMORI...

...IF YOU
DRINK ITS
BLOOD,
YOU WILL
LIVE
FOR A
**THOUSAND
YEARS!**

B...BUT
WHAT'S THAT
GOT TO DO
WITH
MOVING THE
CAPITAL?

WELL, I'M GOING
TO HAVE THAT
BIRD BROUGHT
TO ME ON A
SPECIAL SHIP
FROM CHINA.

















IN TWO DAYS THERE'LL BE NO MOON.

IF WE SMEAR YOU WITH CHARCOAL, MAYBE WE CAN MAKE THAT RIDICULOUSLY HUGE BODY OF YOURS A LITTLE LESS CONSPICUOUS.



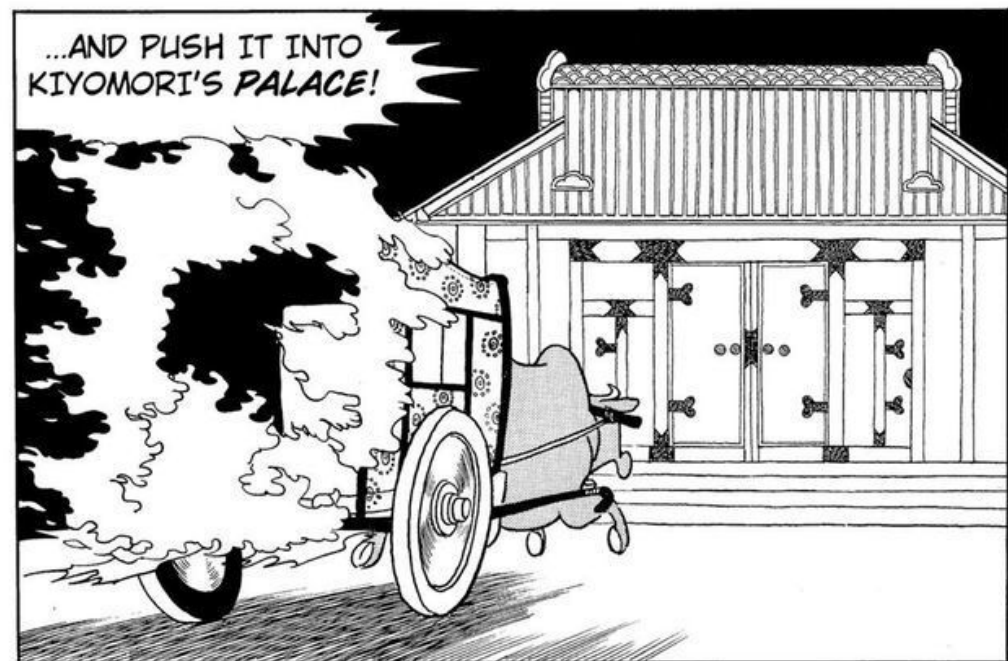
AND WE'LL STEAL ONE OF THOSE OX CARTS THE NOBLES USE...

AN OX CART ...?

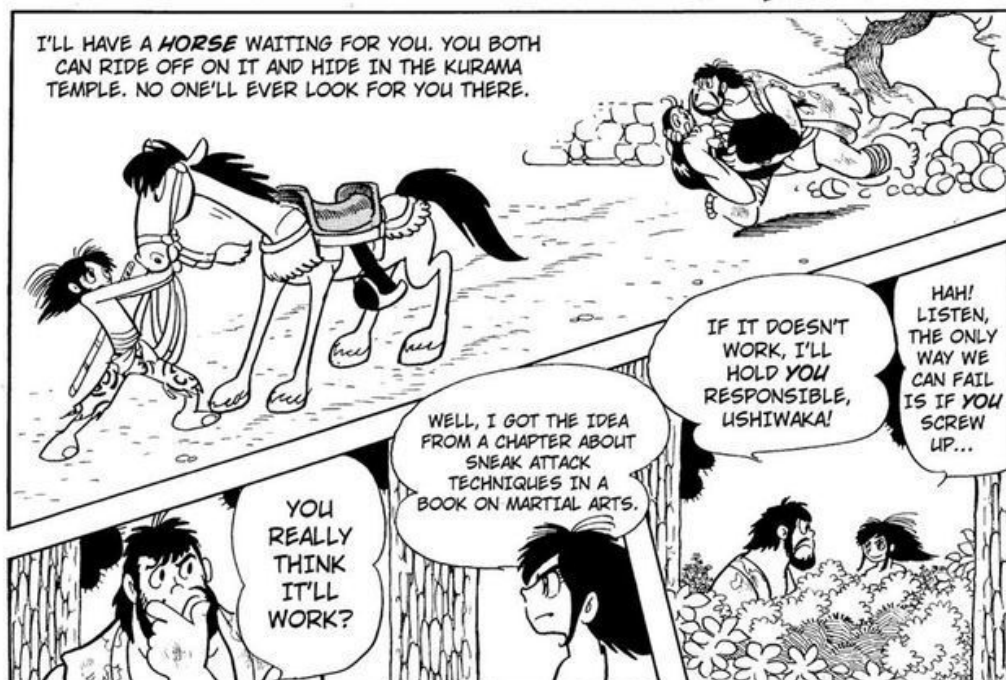


YEAH... WE'LL PAINT OURSELVES BLACK AND SNEAK UP IN THE NIGHT.

WE'LL KILL ALL THE GUARDS BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW WE'RE THERE. AND THEN WE'LL SET FIRE TO THE OX CART...



...AND PUSH IT INTO KIYOMORI'S PALACE!





THE NIGHT
OF A NEW
MOON
SOON
CAME...

THIS
GOOEY
STUFF'S
HARD TO
PAINT
ON...

HEY...
WHAT ABOUT
BELOW MY
BELLY?

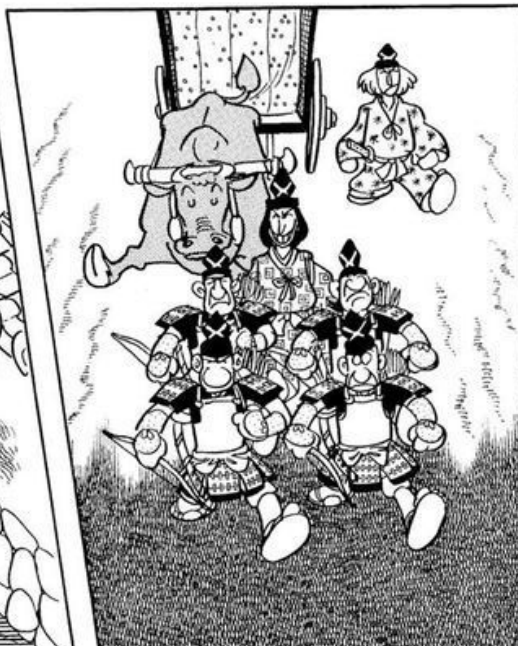
YOU CAN
TAKE CARE
OF THAT
YOURSELF!

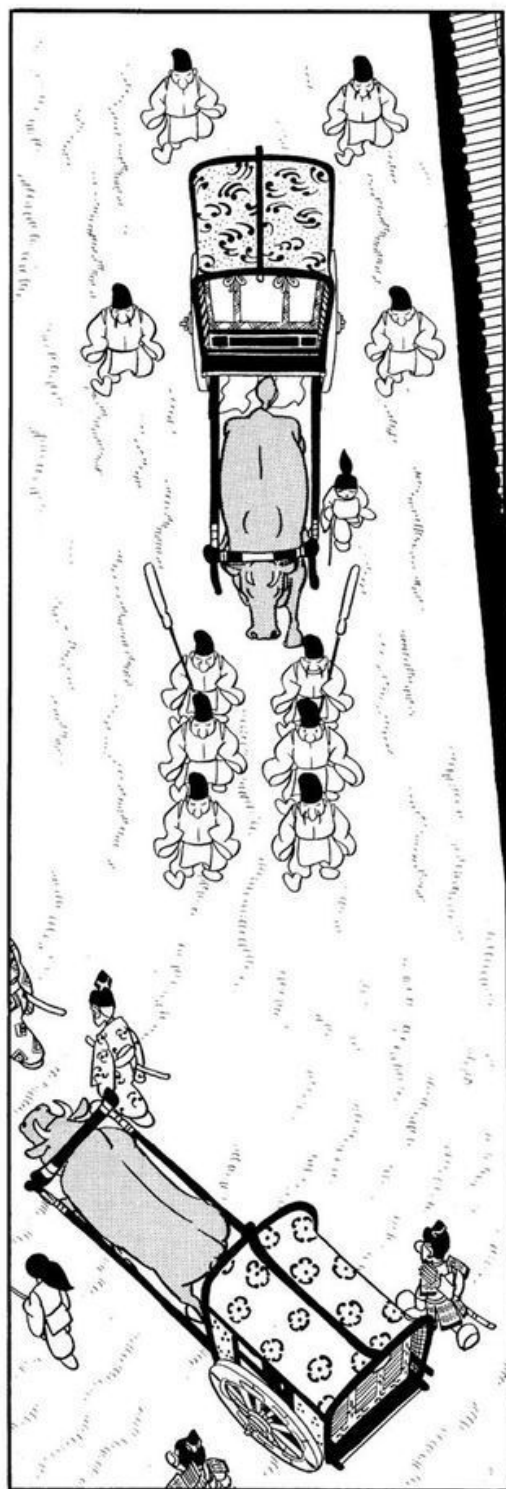
SNIFF

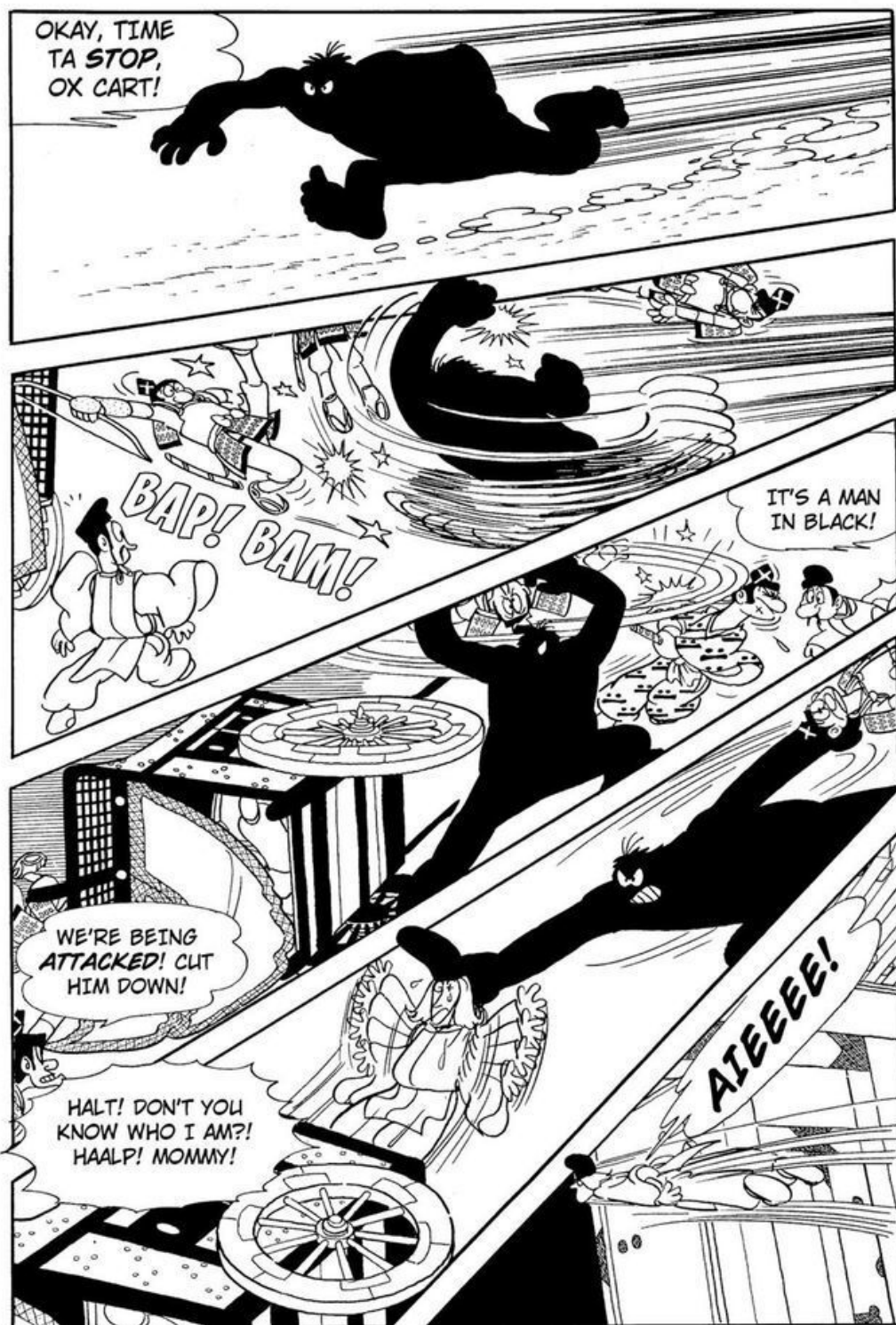
HEY!
BE
QUIET!

I CAN'T
HELP IT!
I THINK
I'VE
CAUGHT A
COLD, MY
NOSE'S
DRIPPING!

AH CHOOOO!







BLOP!

OOMPH!

UM, YOUR LORDSHIP... AT THE OINOGO GATE, UM, WHEN MASTER SUKEMORI WAS RETURNING FROM FALCONING...

...UM...A STRANGE **BLACK FIGURE** FROM REGENT FUJIWARA MOTOFUSA'S RETINUE WENT **BERSERK** AND **ATTACKED** THEM... MASTER SUKEMORI'S TAKEN REFUGE IN HIS **QUARTERS**...

WHAT!? **ATTACKED MY NEPHEW?**

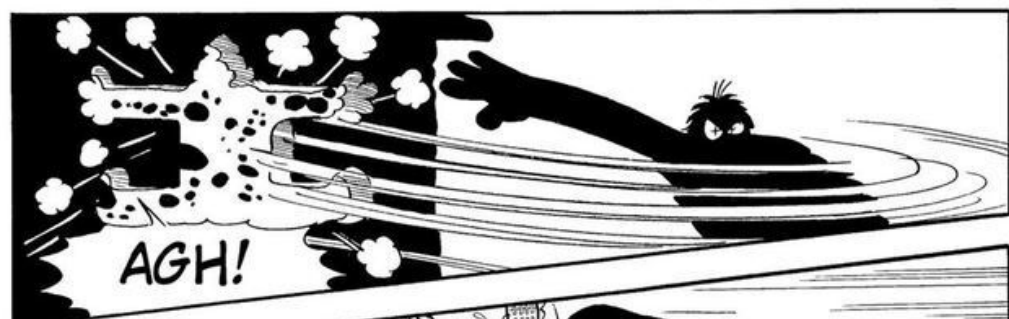
MY OWN **NEPHEW?** **DISHONORED** IN FRONT OF **MY OWN HOME!!!**

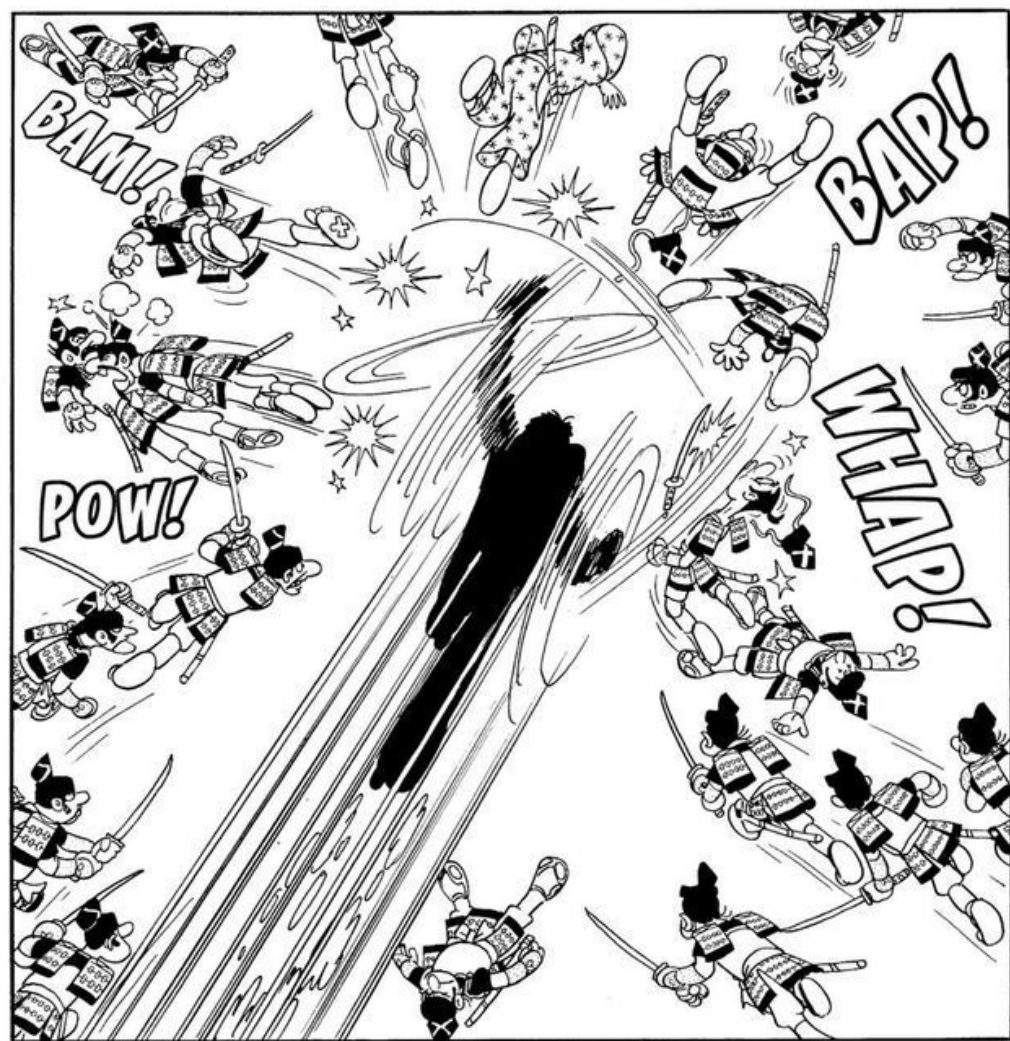
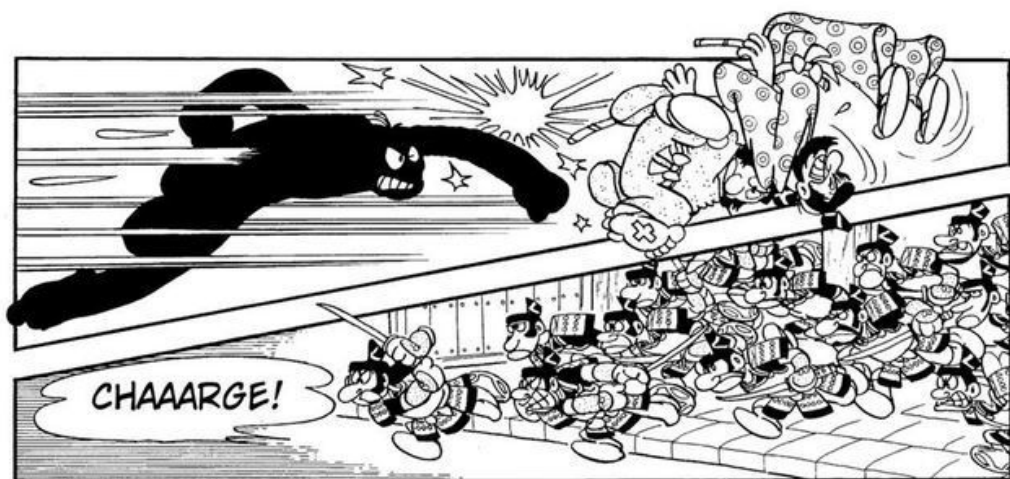
DON'T LET MOTOFUSA'S **GOVERNMENT CART** GET AWAY!!!AND **MAKE SURE** EVERYONE IN HIS RETINUE RECEIVES A **GOOD BEATING!**

ALL RIGHT, MEN! WE'RE GETTIN' **REVENGE** FOR MASTER SUKEMORI!

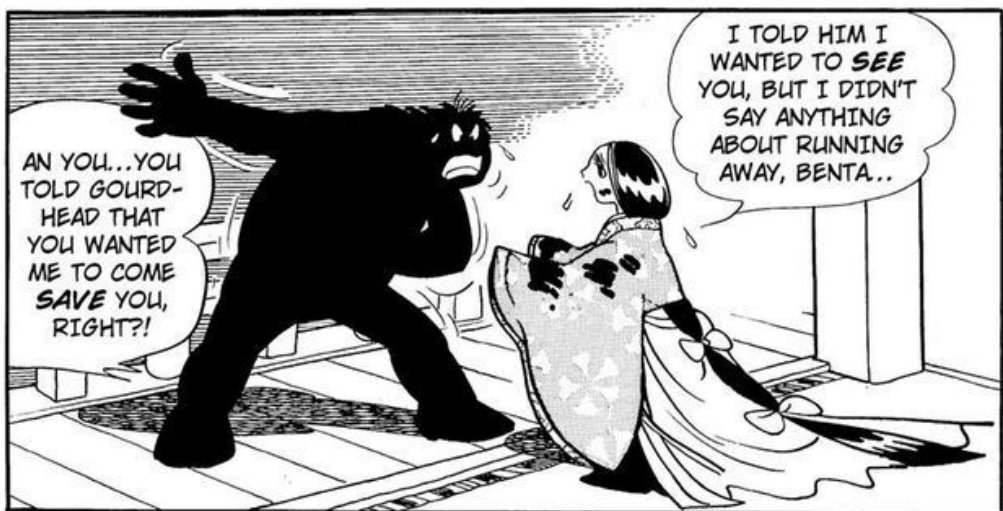
HEY! W...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THIS IS HIS EXCELLENCY **MOTOFUSA'S OX CART!**

SHUT UP AND TAKE YOUR BEATING!

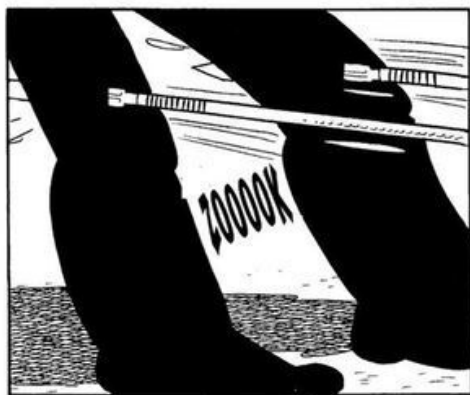




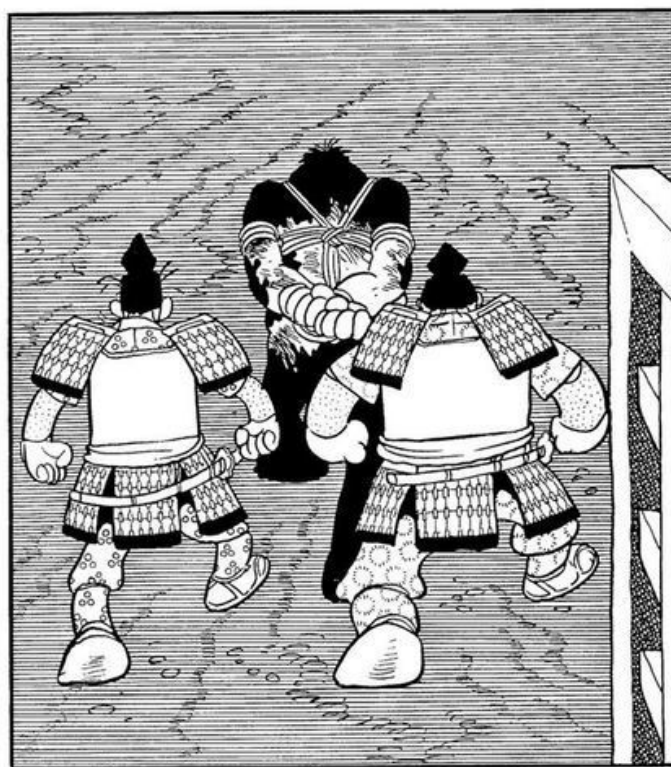
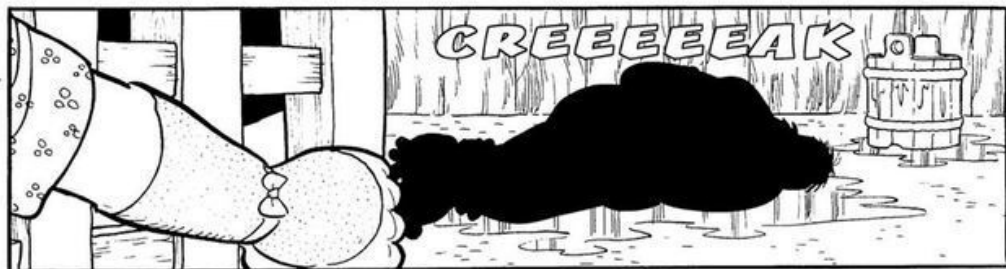


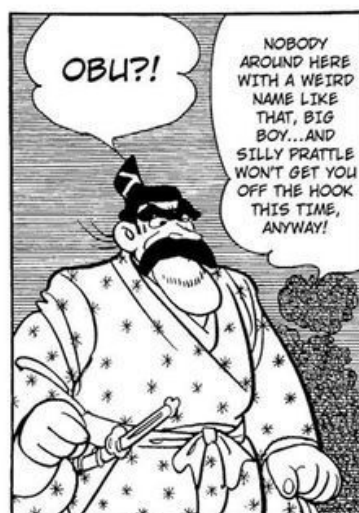
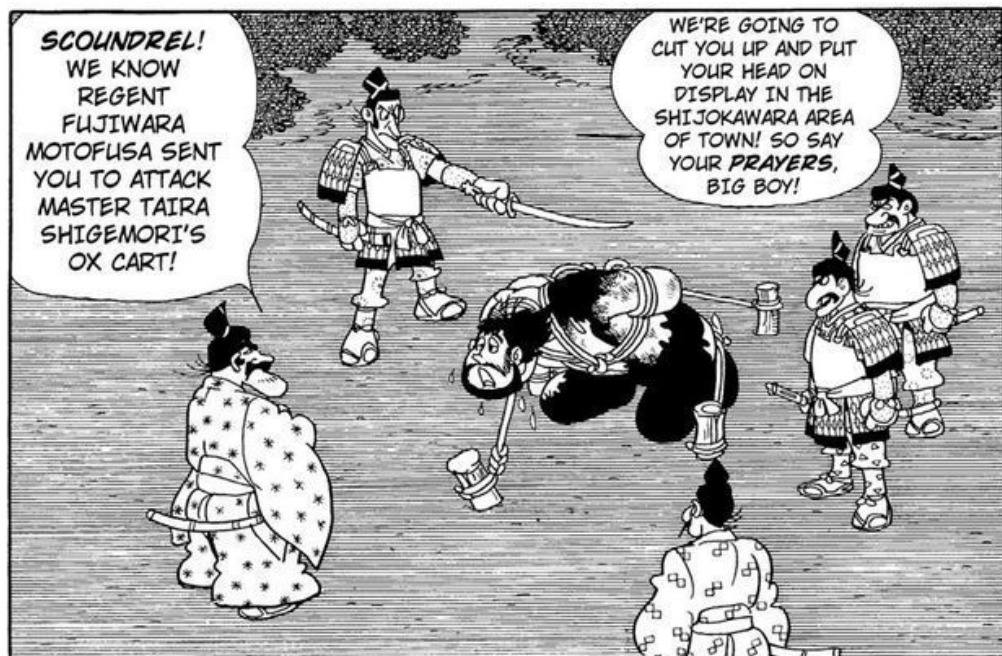


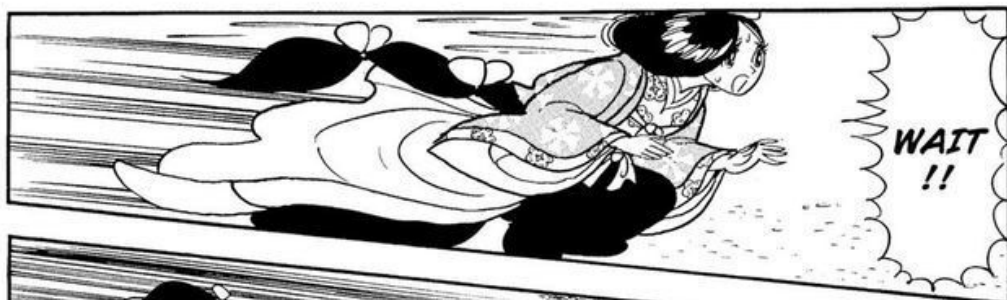








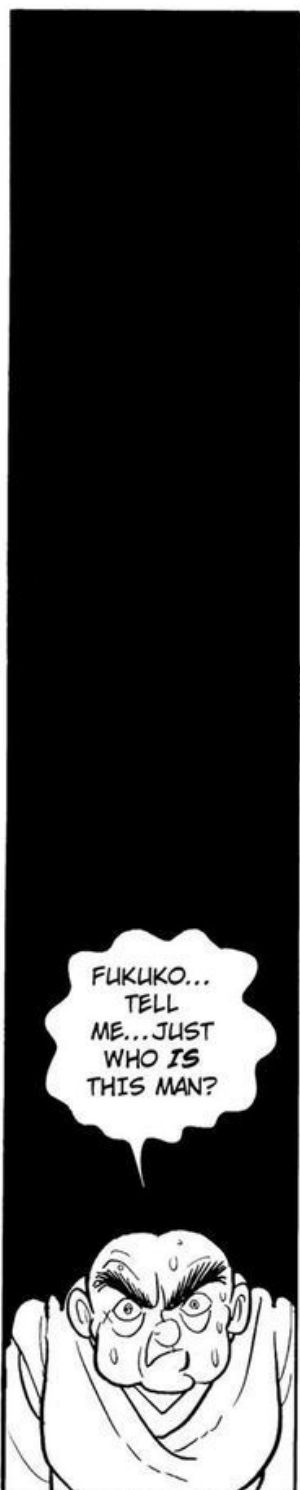




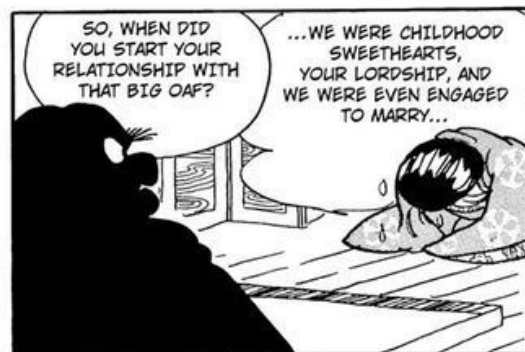
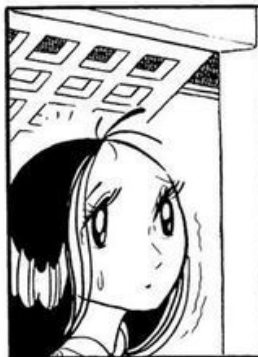













*SHIRABYOSHI: A "PROFESSIONAL" FEMALE DANCER WHO NORMALLY DRESSED IN WHITE, HENCE THE NAME SHIRA (WHITE) BYOSHI (DANCER).




WHAT?!



YOU DO WANT
ME TO SPARE
HIS LIFE,
DON'T YOU?

WELL, THE
PRICE IS YOU
CUTTING HIM
OUT OF YOUR
LIFE!

SWEAR
THAT YOU'LL
NEVER SEE
HIM AGAIN!
THAT YOU'LL
GIVE HIM UP
FOREVER!




I WANT YOU
TO BE *MINE*,
FUKUKO, ALL
MINE...



I DON'T WANT
TO SHARE
YOU WITH
ANYONE ELSE.

YOU'RE TO
BE MINE
AND MINE
ONLY,
UNDER-
STAND?



I DON'T
HAVE LONG
TO LIVE...
SO UNTIL
I DIE...
I WANT
YOU BY MY
SIDE...

UNDERSTAND?
I FEEL BETTER,
JUST HAVING
YOU NEAR ME...



LISTEN, FUKUKO...THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT REMIND ME OF MY WIFE TOKIKO WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG...I FEEL LIKE I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME...



GRANT ME THIS ONE WISH...

IF...YOU WILL FORGIVE HIM...THEN... I WILL DO...WHATEVER YOU WISH...



VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL REVOKE THE DEATH SENTENCE AND JUST HAVE HIM BANISHED.

HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SET FOOT IN THE CAPITAL AGAIN. UNDERSTAND?



AGREED ?

...AGREED...



HEY! WHERE ARE MY SERVANTS!?

<SOB... SOB...SOB>



THERE'S NO NEED FOR TEARS... YOU SILLY WOMAN...



BANISHMENT IS SMALL PUNISHMENT FOR A SCOUNDREL WHO BROKE INTO MY HOME AND ATTACKED A MEMBER OF MY OWN FAMILY!